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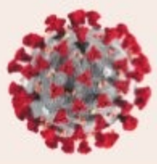


ZYDUS QUOTES ₹1,900 FOR VAX, GOVT PUSH TO LOWER RATE

The Centre is in negotiations with Ahmedabad-based Zydus, which has put a price tag of `1,900 for its three-shot ZyCov-D

THE REASON BEHIND DIFFERENTIAL PRICING

ZyCoV-D is priced differently than Covaxin and Covishield as it needs a ₹30,000 needle-free jet injector. The injector is not single-use and can administer around 20,000 doses. "Since this is a three-dose vaccine and comes with a needleless delivery system, it would have a differential pricing than the existing jabs," said Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan

FIRST JAB FOR KIDS IN 12-18 GROUP

- ZyCoV-D received Emergency Use Authorisation from the drug regulator on August 20, making it the first vaccine eligible to be administered in the age-group of 12 to 18, besides adults
- It is the world's first DNA-based needle-free vaccine, indigenously developed by the Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila pharma

Three

ROUNDS OF TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD TO NEGOTIATE THE PRICING

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

4 farmers among 8 killed in UP as protest turns violent

Union minister Ajay Mishra refutes claims of his son being in one of the vehicles involved

One of the cars that was set afire by protesters in Kheri on Sunday

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AT least eight persons, including four farmers, died and 15 others were injured on Sunday after an anti-farm law protest turned violent in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district. "Four occupants of the vehicles that allegedly ran over the farmers were also killed," Additional Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur Kheri, Arun Kumar Singh said.

Violence broke out after two vehicles in the convoy of the son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra allegedly ran over a group of anti-farm law protesters on the Tikunia-Banbirpur road. Angry farmers reportedly stopped the convoy and set three vehicles on fire. Farmers alleged Mishra's son was in one of the vehicles, a charge he denied. Sources said the farmers had assembled at Tikunia to oppose UP Deputy CM Keshav Maurya's visit to Banvari, where he was to attend a programme organised by Mishra.

"The farmers had planned to gherao a helipad to stop the Maurya from getting off. Once that programme ended and most people were on their way back, three cars came and mowed down the farmers. One farmer died on the spot and another in the hospital," said Dr Darshan Pal, a farmers' leader. Four of the deceased were identified as Harjeet Singh, Satwinder Singh, Satnam Singh and Agyat Lavra.

Calling the incident a conspiracy, Mishra said his son was not even present at the spot when the incident took place. He blamed anti-social elements for pelting stones on a vehicle, leading to its overturning and crushing of two farmers underneath. Mishra said his driver and three BJP workers died in the incident. Meanwhile, ADG, L&O, Prashant Kumar reached the spot and deployed additional forces to prevent the incident from snowballing.

Angered by Mishra's comment

The protest on Tikunia-Banbirpur road was organised to show black flags to Mishra and Mourya over the former's recent comment against the anti-farm law protests. Mishra had recently underplayed the protests, saying it was a protest of "10-15 people and it would take just two minutes to make them fall in line".

Priyanka, Akhilesh to visit the site

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is slated to visit Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday. "As of now, Priyanka ji has not left (for Lakhimpur Kheri). There are full chances of house arrest," a party spokesperson said. Others like SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and RLD's Jayant Chaudhary are also scheduled to go there. Farmers will hold peaceful protests

CM wants tit-for-tat by volunteer force

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WEEKS after a video of a bureaucrat directing policemen to break the heads of agitating farmers went viral, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday landed in the soup for alleged asking his party workers to raise volunteer groups in each district to give a tit-for-tat to protesting farmers.

In a video clip that went viral on social media, Khattar while addressing a meeting of BJP's Kisan Morcha at his residence, is seen urging his party workers to form groups of 500-1,000 volunteers of farmers in each district in north and west Haryana to counter farmer outfits that have sprung up there. He asked the workers to follow the principle of *Sathe Sathyam Samacharet*, loosely translated as tit-for-tat. Khattar urged them to pick up sticks, which was interpreted as a call for armed combat. He went on to say they should not be afraid of going to jail for a short period, as they would eventually come out as heros and blossom into bigger leaders.

Manohar Lal Khattar

Varinder Chauhan, spokesperson of Haryana BJP, said, "only a portion of the video clip was being circulated to create a wrong impression. It has been misinterpreted. The state government has always shown restraint despite instigation by protesting farmers. Khattar has advised the party cadre to be patient."

"This call to spread anarchy at an open programme after taking oath of the Constitution is treason. Seems you also have the nod of Modi-Naddaji in this. If the CM talks about spreading violence... then the rule of law and the Constitution cannot prevail," tweeted Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala. As for the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, it said Khattar's call was unacceptable and objectionable. It demanded his dismissal. P9

Thumping victory for Didi in bypoll

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

CHIEF Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday registered a thumping victory in the Bhowanipore by-election, trouncing BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal by a record margin of 58,835 votes.

"The verdict in Bhowanipore was a reply to the conspiracy hatched against me in Nandigram. The Nandigram election result is pending in court. I secured lead from all wards of the civic body in Bhowanipore," said Mamata standing on the courtyard of her residence in Kalighat along with her family members.

Mamata crushed the opposition as she got 71.9% of the total votes polled as against her closest rival's (BJP) 22.17%. She had to win the bypoll to stay as chief minister.

Her reference to winning from all municipal wards is significant as the BJP secured a lead in two pockets in the constituency in the recent Assembly polls. Non-Bengali voters form around 40% of the total electorate in Bhowanipore, which the BJP hoped would lean towards it. Mamata apparently has made deep inroads into the BJP's vote bank.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after winning the Bhowanipore bypoll

The Trinamool Congress also won two other Assembly constituencies, Samsherganj and Jangipur, where elections were held after its candidates died of Covid. In the minority dominated Samsherganj, BJP candidate Milan Ghosh lost her deposit. As for the Left Front, its candidates lost their deposits in all three Assembly seats.

Welcoming Mamata's victory, BJP's state president Sukanta Majumdar said, "Around 57% of the voters turned up at the polling booths in Bhowanipore. It shows a large number of voters either did not exercise their franchise or they were not allowed to. We welcome those who supported our candidate and we will contest in the by-elections in the four Assembly constituencies that will be held on October 30."

In Odisha, BJD's Rudra Pratap Maharathy won the Pipili bypoll, defeating his nearest rival Ashrit Pattnaik of the BJP by over 20,000 votes. P9

Indian scientists crack dengue vax challenge

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

SCIENTISTS from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)-Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bengaluru, in collaboration with several Indian institutes, have developed a dengue DNA vaccine candidate, accomplishing something that had remained a challenge over the years.

The team of scientists achieved the feat by selecting a part of an important viral protein from four different variations of the dengue virus to develop the vaccine candidate as a 'consensus vaccine' that could be effective against different dengue viral variants.

The virus that causes dengue has four types with four different viral antigens – essentially proteins causing infection, against which antibodies are created. The researchers selected a part called Envelope protein Domain-III from all the four serotypes of the virus. The ED-III is considered as the most important viral protein. In addition, the researchers also selected NS1 protein from the DENV2 viral variation, which is known to cause severe dengue with internal bleeding and drop in blood pressure.

"In the traditional vaccines, the whole envelope protein is used, which can lead to Antibody Dependent Enhancement -- ADE (where the viral antigen binds to less-effective antibodies making the virus more effective)," said Dr Arun Sankaradoss, project lead and scientist at the TIFR-Bengaluru. P7

PANDORA PAPERS

Now, loads of black money info revealed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LOADS of documents revealing the financial secrets of 35 current and former world leaders, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's inner circle, were released on Sunday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Called Pandora Papers, they seek to unmask the covert owners of offshore firms and incognito bank accounts.

People named in the report include former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, pop music diva Shakira, supermodel Claudia Schiffer, among others. Tendulkar's attorney told the consortium that his investment was legitimate and declared to tax authorities.

The documents show how Jordan's monarch, King Abdullah II, funnelling $100 million to secretly purchase 14 luxury homes in the US and the UK and setting up at least 36 shell companies.

The documents also show that members of Imran's inner circle, their families and major financial backers secretly own companies and trusts holding millions of dollars of stashed away wealth. Among those named in the expose are Pakistan finance minister Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin and his family; top PTI donor Arif Naqvi; and minister Chaudhry Moonis Elahi.

It also reveals the sale of a luxury London apartment by the son of an Indian movie director to the wife of a three-star Pakistan general. P11

Selfie-taking man survives 140-foot fall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A youngster, who was considered dead after he fell from a 140-foot cliff while taking a selfie at the Gokak waterfalls in Belagavi district on Saturday evening, was miraculously found alive early on Sunday morning. A team of youth, headed by well-known wildlife activist and rescuer Ayub Khan, succeeded in rescuing the victim, who escaped with minor injuries.

The rescued youth, Pradeep, a resident of Kalaburagi and working at a bank at Belagavi, had gone to the falls along with his friends on Saturday. He walked to the edge of a cliff to take a selfie, but lost balance and fell. Soon after getting the information, the police and Khan's team rushed to the spot and started the search operation. But as they could not find Pradeep till Saturday evening, they called off the search presuming him dead and decided to resume the search on Sunday.

Khan told *TNIE* that around 3 am on Sunday, he received a call that Pradeep had been found alive. Pradeep himself had called his friend on his mobile phone and asked him to get help immediately as he was stuck between the rocks. Khan and his team decided to start the search at 3.30 am, and called Pradeep, asking him to share his location on the mobile phone. The team finally traced and rescued Pradeep around 5.30 am.

NCB sleuths taking Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan for questioning after getting his one-day custody in a drug seizure case in Mumbai on Sunday | P11

SRK's son in NCB's custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

THE Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday got one-day custody of Aryan Khan, the son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, in connection with the seizure of drugs onboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast. The narcotics sleuths had detained Aryan Khan, Munmun Dhamecha, Arbaaz Merchant and five others on Saturday evening after swooping down on the Goa-bound cruise from Mumbai based on a tip-off. All the eight were arrested on Sunday evening.

Seeking Aryan, Munmun and Arbaaz's custody, the NCB told a holiday court of the chief metropolitan magistrate that it had evidence to show an existence of a nexus between the three persons and drugs peddlers.

"Prima facie, there is incriminating material in the form of WhatsApp chats and so on that clearly shows the nexus," the agency said in its remand note.

When the NCB prosecutor sought police custody for two days, Aryan's lawyer said his client was ready for a one-day custody. "Because I am (Aryan) neither found in possession nor is there an allegation of consumption none of the sections attracts the embargo under sec 37 of the NDPS," Aryan's lawyer Satish Maneshinde said.

The seizure brings the focus back on the relationship between Bollywood and the D-Company, which has a monopoly on drugs supply in the tinsel town.

"Raw drugs are procured from Afghanistan and Colombia and smuggled into the country through Punjab and Gujarat. The D-Company runs the network and has both Bollywood stars and strugglers as its clientele," a senior police official said.

FULL REPORT: P10

PAVAGADA PERILS

Unkept promises... Ex-Naxals threaten to return to cause

CHETANA BELAGERE & ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Pavagada

SOLAR PARK FLARES
PART – 3

PAVAGADA taluk, which once hit the headlines for Naxal activities, has been in the news again over the last five years for housing one of the world's largest solar park covering an area of 53 sqkm. But nothing has changed for former Naxalites in the area, who had been promised by politicians, policemen and the government that their living condition would be improved, employment opportunities would be created, financial help would be extended and all efforts would be made to ensure a 'good' life.

But just when these ex-Naxalites were returning to the mainstream, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) decided to acquire land for the humongous solar park at Pavagada.

"We were promised jobs, including cleaning solar panels, cutting grass and others, during setting up of the park. But nothing came our way. We belong to the Scheduled Caste community, and on top of that, we were labelled Naxalites," lamented Muthyalappa alias Venkatesh of Vallur village. He was part of the Naxal movement since 1998. He was arrested in 2005 and served six-and-a-half years in different jails in the State.

Ex-Naxalite Muthyalappa alias Venkatesh with other residents of Vallur village in Pavagada taluk of Tumakuru district | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Nagaraj, alias Manohara — whose brother Peddanna was the first in the family to join the Naxal movement — decided not to part with his father's two-acre land, while many others dreamed of working at the solar park as employees.

Nagaraj sits at his small shop in the tiny hamlet of Venkatamannahalli, which made headlines in 2005, when six police personnel and a civilian were killed, while five others were injured when around 300 Naxalites, including 50 women, attacked the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) camp with hand grenades, bombs and AK-47 assault rifles. Nagaraj was the prime accused in the case.

"I have been Accused No 1 in the bomb blast case," says Nagaraj.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

BJP shortlists probable candidates for bypolls

Bengaluru: The BJP state core committee on Sunday shortlisted three probable candidates each for Hanagal and Sindagi Assembly constituencies which will go for bypolls. P4

NATIONWIDE	OCT 2	OCT 3
Fresh cases	24,354	22,842
Recoveries	25,455	25,930
Deaths	234	244

KARNATAKA	OCT 2	OCT 3
Fresh cases	636	664
Recoveries	745	711
Deaths	4	8

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 04/10/2021 • **Year:** Plava • **Ayana:** Dakshinayna
• **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Bhadrapada • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Thrayodasi 7.04 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Purva Phalguni 2.02 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Broken clouds

Sunrise 6.09 am
Sunset 6.07 pm
Moonrise 4.02 am
Moonset 4.48 pm

NOVEMBER DEADLINE

SC/ST site owners hope for payment date extension

Bommai had said that KG Layout could be considered a special case

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Development Authority (BDA) site allottees who were offered plots in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) under the SC/ST and Backward Tribal category keenly wait for orders on extension of the payment deadline, which expires in November. Nearly 24% of the 5,000 sites allotted under Phase-II were earmarked for them, and many have not paid and cited Covid-19 induced financial hardships as a reason.

Allotment of Phase-II sites was done in November 2018, and the three-month deadline for payment expires next month, explained a senior BDA official. "An interest of 18% would be levied if payment if made within 30 days, while 21% interest will be charged if payment is made beyond that," he said. The issue was raised in Zero Hour in the Assembly by MLA Anadani of Malavalli on their behalf, and CM Basavaraj Bommai gave a written response on September 22, stating that it could be considered for an extension as a special case.

Surendra Kumar was allotted a 40x60 sqft site near Magadi Road, which cost him Rs 50 lakh. This civil engineer-cum contractor had paid the initial amount of over Rs 3 lakh, but could not make other payments due to the lack of projects due to Covid-19. "I got my site in the fifth attempt and I am retaining it. I repeatedly visited the BDA office and requested for an extension ranging between a year and three years. The pandemic has impacted the world and there is a genuine reason why payments couldn't be made," he stressed. Srikanth M (name changed on request), a Central government employee, has paid nearly half the amount for the 30x40 sqft site allotted to him.

BDA Commissioner Rajesh Gowda told TNIE that only if there is any communication from the government and Urban Development Department, would the BDA be able to offer any relief.

A site at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout in Komaghatta area

Site owners appeal for waiver of penalty

ENS @BENGALURU

THE Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) site allottees of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL), who are yet to start construction of their houses, face twin problems: a penalty amount that BDA levies for keeping sites vacant, and a higher rate of interest charged by banks as the home loan on these sites would be converted into commercial loan. In the absence of civic infrastructure in the layout, it is not possible to get the construction process under way, say allottees.

Keeping a site vacant for five years after allotment invites a penalty amount ranging between Rs 5,000 and Rs 6 lakh from the Authority, depending on the site dimension. The first batch of 5,000 sites was allotted in December 2016 while another 5,000 sites were allotted in March 2018.

Malini V S bought her 30x40 sqft site for Rs 24 lakh in Komaghatta three years ago. She told TNIE, "I have received a letter from my bank that in case I don't begin construction work by December 2021, I will be charged a higher rate of interest. At present, I pay 10.5% interest on my home loan. There are no roads to bring material and carry out construction work. There is no electricity or water supply. If I go ahead with building my house, neither can I live there nor will I be able to rent it. " Sham Jujare S, who bought a plot in Bhimanakuppe area told TNIE, "The penalty that BDA plans to levy for keeping sites vacant is worrying. It should not levy the fine as we couldn't go ahead with construction because of lack of infrastructure in KG Layout." Commissioner Rajesh Gowda told TNIE that BDA was doing its best to expedite all infrastructure work in the layout.

A BDA signboard at KG Layout

Basaveshwaranagar 97mm
Gali Anjaneya Temple 92mm
Jnanabharathi BU 73mm
Heganahalli 57.5mm
Maruthi mandir 64.5mm
Shivanagara 95.5mm
Herohalli 75mm

Heavy downpour creates havoc in city

ENS @ Bengaluru

HEAVY rain accompanied by thunder lashed the city on Sunday evening, leading to waterlogging in Malleswaram, Ramamurthynagar, Koramangala, Ejipura and Shantinagar, Basavanagudi and few low-lying areas around Jayanagar and BTM Layout. Meanwhile, several commuters were inconvenienced due to traffic as the rain began around 8.30 pm and continued till 11:30 pm with heavy rainfall which lasted for over an hour after 10 pm.

Officials of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) have described it as a cloudburst. They said the trend is likely to continue for the next two days. On the damage caused, BBMP officials and Fire and Emergency told TNIE that they did not receive complaints of tree fall or any kind of damages caused by rain. Bikers were the worst affected and many were seen taking shelter at underpasses and bus stops to escape from the rain, while a cab was stuck in the middle of the road in Ramamurthynagar. Flooding was also reported in Nagarbhavi, Govindarajapuram and Vijayanagar.

Torrential rainfall uproots a tree near MES College in Malleswaram, on Sunday

BENGALURU URBAN NORTH: 35.5MM | DASANAPURA 26.5MM | MACHOHALLI 38MM | ADAKAMARANAHALLI 46MM | KACHOHALLI 55MM

Incomplete Jnanabharathi underpass bothers residents

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

WORK at an underpass below the tracks of the Jnanabharathi Railway Station that would facilitate easy access to the Mysuru Road from Jnanabharthi BDA Layout, stopped seven months ago, causing inconvenience to the residents of the area.

The demands for compensation made by civic utility agencies--Bangalore Electricity Company Limited (BESCOM) and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), have allegedly brought the work to a standstill. Work on the Rs 7 crore Road Under Bridge (RUB) commenced on August 21, 2020, with Railways executing the project for BBMP as the bridge fell within its land. The BBMP is bearing the entire cost of the project. However, work came to a complete halt in February this year.

While KM Siddaramu (74), president of the Jnanabharathi BDA Layout Association (IIIrd Block) could not be reached for comment, his son and member of the Association, Manjunath told TNIE, "Mysuru Road is just 300 feet away when one uses the bridge. However, it is a life-threatening risk when people use the incomplete bridge to reach the other side of the road. The path is now suitable for only one person." Along with the residents of BDA Layout, those in the neighbouring layouts including IB Layout and Nisarga Extension Layout are affected, he said. "Students of Darshan College and West Orchid School struggle to reach their institutions from this area while residents of Sri Pearl Apartment cannot even take their vehicles outside," rues Manjunath. Another resident of the BDA Layout, BN Suresh said that the residents had keenly awaited the opening of the Jnanabharathi Metro station. "Finally, when it is in place, the incomplete RUB has prevented us from utilising it. We need to either take a 2.5 km detour via the Jnanabharati railway gate to reach Mysuru Road or travel 2 km along Dubasipalya to reach the main road." Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, R R Nagar, Nandeesh said, "The cost of the underpass was estimated to be Rs 7 crore and we have got it sanctioned. We have already handed over Rs 3.5 crore to the Railways to carry out the work. BESCOM now wants Rs 37 lakh to be paid to it for shifting its cables while BWSSB has asked Rs 21 lakh to shift its pipelines. This has not been factored in."

Mysuru Road is just 300 feet away when one uses the bridge. However, it is a life-threatening risk when people use the incomplete bridge to reach the other side of the road.
– Manjunath, BDA Layout Association (IIIrd Block)

Commission asks uniform supplier to compensate boy for sweater

ENS @ Bengaluru

THE IV Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission directed a uniform supplier to pay Rs 5,000 as compensation, along with Rs 3,000 in litigation charges, to a minor student, who approached the Commission with a complaint that the supplier was not replacing the sweater worth Rs 750 purchased by his father.

The Commission also directed the proprietor of Bhavin Garments at Ulsoor to pay Rs 750, the cost of the sweater, to the complainant Affan, represented by his father Usman Mohammad Peer, a resident of Wilson Garden. Noting that the attitude of the uniform supplier is unfair, the Commission, comprising president RK Prathibha and members D Suresh and NR Roopa, said that the disclaimer, "All sales as per Bhavin Garments' terms and conditions...no alteration, no refund, no return..." issued by the uniform supplier is only one-sided and against the law.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

04th October: The current Saturnine pattern is fine for all practical people, builders, engineers and mathematicians. In fact, there's no reason why even individuals who usually live in a state of chaos cannot rise to new heights of efficiency and superb organisation. There is no excuse for unpunctuality or confusion.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
This is one of those rare weeks when a number of planets form a series of very particular alignments. It will be worth your while making an enormous effort to finalise plans and make important arrangements. But, then, I'm sure that you know that already!

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
The wise person, it is said, rules their stars. The best way to do this now is to anticipate future developments and, for you, this means looking ahead and taking evasive action to head off an approaching personal confrontation. Pick and choose with great care in affairs of the heart.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
According to tradition this is a strange time of year for you, yet even in adverse circumstances you have much to learn. Indeed, you may even gain from being forced to abandon or modify your normal routine. There is a great deal to be said for keeping your plans to yourself, just for now.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Overall, the planets will maintain a balance of friendly and stressful aspects to your sign this week. Just as Mercury removes itself, making it harder for you to reach agreement, magnificent Venus will step in and implement improvements in your social life.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Domestic tensions look set to ease, possibly because you have now made, or are about to make, an important choice. You will be happy just as long as friends and relatives concur with your decision. On the other hand, an employer or colleague now needs your trust and understanding.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
Over the next few days you may be faced with your last chance to settle a business arrangement or finalise joint spending plans. Circumstances will change very soon, perhaps after a friend moves the goal posts. Just how you react will be very much a matter for you, and partners should keep quiet.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
Take a careful look at your business arrangements and financial commitments. Friends or partners will soon be asking you to account for your actions and it is essential that you have all the figures straight. Even your romantic desires will be dominated by what you can and can't afford.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
You've been thinking long and hard about what the next move should be. Until now, it has seemed likely that you would have to go it alone, but all that will change when a new and willing partner arrives on the scene. The chance of a cash bonus will excite your hopes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
Whatever you feel about life, your mood will have completely altered by the end of the week. In the meantime, pay detailed attention to your financial affairs. You are not alone in feeling the squeeze, so never imagine that you have to face such questions by yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You pride yourself on your honesty, but over the next few days it will become increasingly clear that you had better keep certain items of information to yourself. Discretion may be the best course, but then that always comes naturally to any true Capricorn.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
This may be an increasingly sociable time, largely because of the movement of planets through those angles of your chart denoting public success and acclaim. Do not be afraid to acknowledge those wonderful achievements for which you are responsible.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
This could be an important time professionally, even though your life may be bedevilled by the need to make decisions. The trouble is that each alternative has its own attractions, yet there is no way you can have your cake and eat it. You'll have to make a hard choice, Pisces!

THE PHANTOM

YOU REALLY ARE A GHOST WHO WALKS!
THANKS...
I'M GOING TO PRETEND YOU DON'T SAY THAT TO ALL THE GUYS WHO BREAK YOU OUT OF DEATH ROW.
Falk

HI AND LOIS

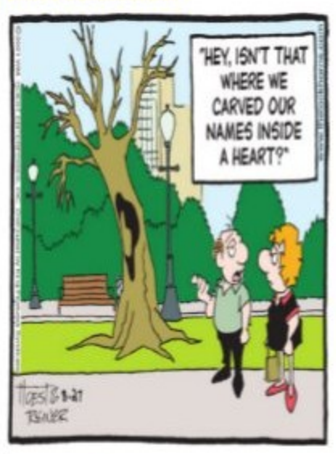
HOW COME SO MANY OF THESE DRUG ADS SHOW OLDER PEOPLE CANOEING ON LAKES?
THEY'RE TRYING TO APPEAL TO THEM.
ARE YOU GOING TO GET A CANOE?!
I DON'T THINK I'M OLD ENOUGH YET.

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

SLOW DOWN, MORELLI! WHAT'S THE RUSH?
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT THAT I DON'T WANT TO MISS
EVERY TIME I'M LATE I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH SLOPPY WORK
WHAT'S THE APPOINTMENT FOR?
A HAIRCUT

LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

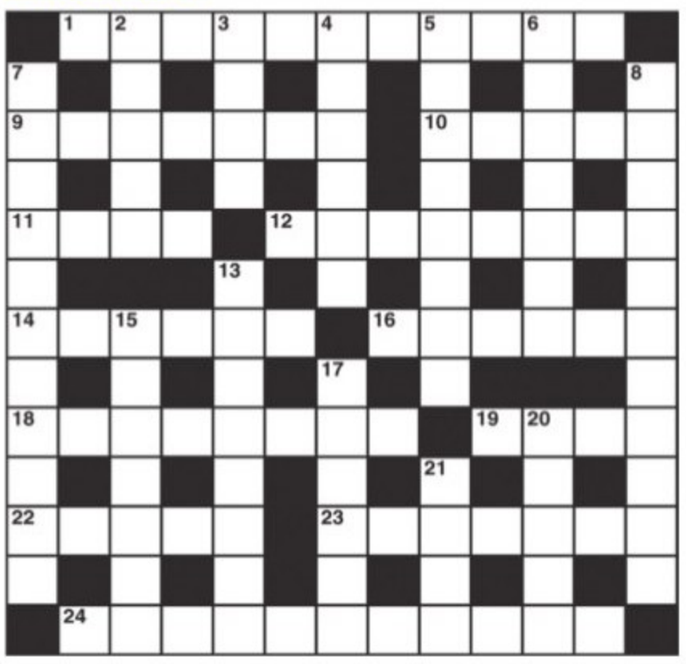
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

9	8		7	5				1
5		4			9			3
						9	5	
	2	3		8		7		6
		8	6		4	1		
6		5		3		2	9	
	6	2						
4			5			3		2
8				7	2		1	4

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

2	9	3	6	8	1	4	5	7
7	8	1	4	5	2	6	9	3
4	5	6	3	9	7	1	2	8
5	3	7	9	1	4	8	6	2
6	1	2	7	3	8	5	4	9
8	4	9	2	6	5	3	7	1
1	7	8	5	4	9	2	3	6
9	6	4	1	2	3	7	8	5
3	2	5	8	7	6	9	1	4

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Attractive girl - and what it might cost to take her out (6,5)
9 Fit to work like a horse (7)
10 Duck down (5)
11 Bread bowl (4)
12 Military call for a rising (8)
14 Asian sailors? (6)
16 Put off one's retirement (4,2)
18 Sartorially appropriate but not quite yet (8)
19 Revered figure in holding company (4)
22 Some winners congratulate rivals afterwards (5)
23 Slander Parsees badly (7)
24 Advisers are not the same as opponents (11)

DOWN
2 Country river - a Russian river (5)
3 You alter them in the end (4)
4 Sycophants according to an enemy's version (3-3)
5 The rudiments of meteorology (8)
6 Remarkably one lady is on time (2,5)
7 At which steps may be taken to alleviate hardship (7,4)
8 One who is at liberty to be extravagant? (4,7)
13 Its growth may be dated (4,4)
15 Told and heard as being put back (7)
17 Records at non-U plants (6)
20 Charming hostess helped guests make pigs of themselves (5)
21 A boom in shipping perhaps (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Mohair, 4 Schedule, 9 Lariat, 10 Aspirate, 12 Cute, 13 Knead, 14 Bent, 17 Light-hearted, 20 Ships' masters, 23 Enid, 24 Truro, 25 Taxi, 28 Rub along, 29 Sandra, 30 Steadies, 31 Fiddle.

Down: 1 Molecule, 2 Heritage, 3 Iran, 5 Casual remark, 6 Exit, 7 Usages, 8 Events, 11 Intemperance, 15 Itchy, 16 Beast, 18 Retarded, 19 Estimate, 21 Zebras, 22 Liable, 26 Glad, 27 Dali.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PENIT
NASDT
ISNTSI
EZOAGB

It's nice to bring these countries together again.
We've created something great for our people.
Absolutely!
GERMANY WAS REUNIFIED IN 1990 AND NO LONGER NEEDED THE "EAST" AND "WEST" ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:**
BRIBE LOBBY FOUGHT TYRANT
ANSWER: Making a hole in the wall was tougher than ex-pected, and the drill – BORE THE BRUNT OF IT

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राष्ट्र सेवा के 20 वर्ष

TRAILBLAZING 4 5 YEARS

Completion of 54 months of Trust, Development and Good Governance

REALISING PRIME MINISTER

RESOLUTE, RESURGENT INDIA

UNSTOPPABLE UTTAR PRADESH

SURGING AHEAD WITH THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF YOGI ADITYANATH GOVERNMENT

With the governments at the Centre and the state perfectly aligned in their vision of development, the growth of Uttar Pradesh has received a double impetus. Under the current state government, the benefits of central government schemes have percolated to the remotest regions of the state and to the last man standing. Under the mentorship of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh has become the leading state in 44 central government schemes. Consequently, the economy of the state has reached Rs 21.73 lakh crore under the current regime, from Rs 10.90 lakh crore under the previous dispensation. Today, the state is well on its way to becoming the largest economy in the country, and the per capita income has also approximately doubled. The figures speak for themselves: as per a Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy report, the unemployment rate in the state has dropped to 4.1 per cent now, against 17.5 per cent in 2017. A supporting Centre and a proactive state government have truly set new benchmarks of progress and prosperity in Uttar Pradesh.

आओ मनाएं विकास उत्सव

17 सितम्बर-7 अक्टूबर, 2021

टीका जीत का | UP | मिशन रोज़गार | मिशन शक्ति नारी सुरक्षा नारी सम्मान नारी स्वावलंबन | किसान कल्याण मिशन | एक जनपद एक उत्पाद उत्तर प्रदेश | तेजस्विनाधीतमस्तु अभ्युदय | कन्या सुमंगला

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A Narayanaswamy has lashed out at Opposition leader Siddaramaiah for demanding that the State Government accept the caste census report. "Siddaramaiah must clarify why he did not accept the report that was ready during his tenure as the CM," he added

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Sorry, no risk with the sari!

On Gandhi Jayanti, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was on a shopping expedition at the Khadi Emporium. He got some natty outfits for himself and a beautiful sari for his wife. On spotting BJP State Vice-President BY Vijayendra, he insisted that he buy a sari too. Vijayendra complied. The Chief Minister also urged Irrigation Minister Govind Karjol to buy a sari, but Karjol baulked and admitted that he wasn't good at such tasks. "If I buy a sari and give it to my wife, it is like spending money to get scolded," he said, setting off peals of laughter. Later, he bought some khadi material, clearly unwilling to risk displeasing Mrs Karjol.

DKS woos Modi's community

Each and every caste, no matter how miniscule, plays a role in electoral politics. KPCC President DK Shivakumar, for one, knows that every vote counts. On Sunday, he held an interaction with 'Ganiga' community members. "Ganigas symbolise work culture, and were created as a bond between the devotee and God," he spouted poetically. The Ganiga community — Prime Minister Modi's community called 'Teli' in North India — traditionally in the oil extraction business, was organised by Modi's younger brother Prahlad Modi, ahead of the 2018 assembly elections. Such tiny communities cannot be dismissed, as the ones who lose by wafter-thin margins will tell you. Like former Kerala governor B Rachaiah's son A R Krishnamurthy (Janata Dal Secular) who lost to Congress' R Dhruvanarayana by one vote in Santhemarahalli assembly segment in 2004.

CM's experiments with untruths

It's challenging to tell the truth, especially for those at the helm of political affairs and rulers, remarked CM Basavaraj Bommai, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru. "In my first reading of Gandhi's autobiography 'My Experiments with Truth', I couldn't understand much, it was my second reading while working in Pune, that was thought-provoking. I started thinking about my experiments with lies," he revealed. Gandhi, a role model, was transformed after returning from England. "Anyway, keep aside lies and use the truth to protect something Gandhian within all of you," Bommai suggested.

Going down memory lane

Attending the 75th foundation of BVB College of Engineering and Technology at Hubballi, where he pursued engineering, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai turned nostalgic and opened up about his student days. He said they never used the library to read or borrow books, or the laboratory for practicals, but were most often found in the college canteen. "Even the owner of the canteen was fed up with us and would ask when we were leaving college," Bommai recalled. They spent much time staging protests for the university to put off semester exams, and even succeeded. But when Prof D M Nanjudappa became vice-chancellor of Karnatak University, he refused to budge, and once, the good professor almost complained to Bommai Senior about his son's involvement in such strikes.

Panchamasalis could queer bypoll pitch for BJP

Community unhappy with dilly-dallying over reservation demand, holds out threat of agitation

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

THE Sindagi and Hanagal bypolls could prove to be tough going for the BJP, with the Damocles sword of the Lingayat Panchamasalis' quota demand hanging over the government. The party is wary of the community's increasingly strident stand on reservation under 2A, and the threat of mass agitation. The Panchamasali Lingayat subsect forms about 60 per cent of the community, and contributes heavily to the BJP, which has 18 MLAs and two MPs from this denomination.

Although the government has managed to buy three months' time, there is still considerable tension about whether the community will continue to support the party. Considering the by-elections to Hanagal and Sindagi are just weeks away, the big question is whether it can bring the BJP government to its knees on the Panchamsali issue.

Kudalasangama Mutt pontiff Basavajaya Mruthyunjaya swami said, "The BJP lost the bypoll in Maski, where Panchamsalis did not vote for the government, and nearly lost Belagavi, where the Panchamasalis did not vote en bloc for the BJP. I am not a politician to predict how the Panchamasalis will vote, but this much is sure, the community is not happy with this dilly-dallying."

The BJP lost the bypoll in Maski, where Panchamsalis did not vote for the government, and nearly lost Belagavi, where the Panchamsalis did not vote en bloc for the BJP

Kudalasangama Mutt pontiff Basavajaya Mruthyunjaya swami

He explained that BJP Vice-President BY Vijayendra did not cooperate with the community and tried to to put a spoke in the wheel by trying to hinder the protesters time and again, and even tried to stop them from protesting at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru in February. It may be recalled that Vijayendra was the election in-charge in Maski, where the BJP lost badly.

Panchamasali Mahasabha president Vijayanand Kashappanavar said, "The community is present in large numbers -- upwards of 50,000 in Hanagal and over 60,000 in Sindagi. People have been waiting for 27 years for reservation, but all we got are promises. Even now, they have promised us and asked us to wait for three months."

Koodalasangama Mutt sources said CM Basavaraj Bommai is wary of the Panchamsalis, who dominate his own Shiggaon constituency with around 60,000 community members, while his community, Sadhu Lingayat, is very small in comparison. Unless the government is seen as doing something positive for the community, the BJP cannot take its support for granted in every election.

CM confident of BJP winning bypolls

Ballari: CM Bommai on Sunday expressed confidence of the BJP winning the October 30 bypolls to Hanagal and Sindagi segments. "Hanagal has been our constituency whereas Sindagi is a JDS fort... but take it from me that we are 100% sure of winning both the seats," Bommai told reporters here. The Chief Minister said the BJP's scope of winning the poll is bright because it is a disciplined party, which has its cadre from booth-level to the national-level. He said the candidate fielded by the party would get the support of everyone.

(From left) Former CM BS Yediyurappa, CM Basavaraj Bommai, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel and party national general secretary Arun Singh at the party's state core committee meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Revathi Udasi, Bhusanur frontrunners in saffron party

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE BJP state core committee that met at the party state headquarters Jagannath Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday shortlisted three probable candidates each for Hanagal and Sindagi Assembly constituencies which will go for bypolls on October 30.

Sources familiar with the developments told *The New Indian Express* that Revathi, wife of Haveri MP Shivakumar Udasi and daughter-in-law of the late CM Udasi, and Ramesh Bhusanur have emerged as frontrunners for Hanagal and Sindagi segments, respectively. Bypolls to Hanagal and Sindagi were necessitated following the demise of CM Udasi and MC Managuli (JDS), respectively.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister BC Patil has been made party in charge for Hanagal and former Deputy CM Lakshman Savadi for Sindagi.

According to sources, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former CM BS Yediyurappa have favoured Revathi's candidature for Hanagal as they are in good terms with the Udasi family. Moreover, retaining Hanagal is a matter of prestige for Bommai as the constituency falls in is home district Haveri.

Names of Kalyan Kumar Shettar, Shivaraj Sajjan, Siddaraja Kalakote and Mahantesh Soppina for Hanagal and Siddu Biradar and Sanganagouda Patil for Sindagi, were also discussed in the core committee meeting that lasted for over two hours.

"The ground report shows BJP winning both the seats. We have recommended the names to the party central committee. After analysing internal and external reports, the high command will take a call anytime before the deadline to file the nominations (October 8)," said BJP national general secretary C T Ravi.

Asked about Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah hitting out at the JDS for naming candidates from the Minority community for both the seats to help the BJP by "dividing the secular votes", Ravi hit back saying that the former chief minister should not poke his nose in the internal affairs of other parties.

BJP national general secretary and Karnataka in charge Arun Singh, Yediyurappa, Bommai, party state president Nalin Kumar Kateel, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, former CM Jagadish Shettar and former Union minister DV Sadananda Gowda, ministers Govind Karjol, R Ashoka, B Sriramulu and Dr CN Ashwath Narayan and party state vice-president Nirmal Kumar Surana took part in the discussions.

According to sources, Arun Singh has reportedly favoured fielding a member of the late CM Udasi's family from Hanagal as former CM BS Yediyurappa would campaign aggressively.

"But Bommai has reportedly said that the outcome of the bypolls will not impact the party's prospects in the 2023 elections... so the party might take a chance and field new faces in Hanagal and Sindagi," remarked a BJP leader.

The BJP had fielded Mangala, wife of the late Suresh Angadi, from Belagavi Lok Sabha segment earlier this year and won the seat. The party might continue with that precedent and field a member of the Udasi family in Hanagal," said a source.

Cong will split before 2023 polls: KSE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

WITH the debate on the next chief minister taking the centre stage in Congress, the opposition party will split vertically, said Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister KS Eshwarappa, here on Sunday.

Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar will fall apart in their race for the chief minister's post before the Assembly polls, he said.

Disputing Shivakumar's claim that 20 MLAs from the Old Mysuru region are in touch with him, he said Siddaramaiah and Shiva Kumar have extreme ambitions. "Before dreaming of chief minister's post, Siddaramaiah should aim at winning the election first," the RDPR Minister added.

Eshwarappa asked why Siddaramaiah did not table the caste census report while he was the chief minister and why the Congress did not withdraw support to the coalition government when then chief minister HD Kumaraswamy did not accept the census report.

He alleged that JDS senior leader HD Kumaraswamy wants a fractured mandate in the Assembly polls which will allow the regional party to have substantial say in the formation of the government.

TIME TO REJOICE

Folk artistes perform on the last day of two-day Vijayanagara Jilla Utsav in Hosapete on Sunday. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai declared Vijayanagara as Karnataka's 31st district on Saturday | KPN

ACROSS TUNGABHADRA

K'taka to hold talks with Andhra, TS on building balancing reservoir

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

THE State Government will soon hold discussions with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on constructing a parallel balancing reservoir to help desilt the Tungabhadra Dam as the issue involves both these states, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai here on Sunday.

A detailed project report (DPRP will be ready soon.

"Tenders were floated to desilt the Tungabhadra Dam, but there was poor response. Then it was decided to set up a parallel balancing reservoir in our time (during the BJP government) and a survey was also undertaken," he said.

"The then Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa had released Rs 23 crore for the DPR, which will be ready soon. The state government will hold discussions with the neighbouring states, since it is an inter-state related matter and all issues will be sorted out," Bommai added.

With the accumulation of silt, a storage of nearly 30 tmcft of water is lost at the Tungabhadra reservoir, which has a capacity of 133 tmcft.

Kalyana-Karnataka allocation doubled

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday announced an enhancement in the allocation of funds from Rs 1,500 crore to Rs 3,000 crore to the Kalyana-Karnataka Region Development Board from this year. The additional funds will help speed up development projects in the region, Bommai added.

'Mekedatu is our constitutional right'

Asked about the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery river, which is being opposed by the Tamil Nadu government, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said it is our constitutional right and Tamil Nadu should not stall the project.

"I have made a promise to our people and I stand by it. Our government will proceed with the project," he added.

EXPRESS READ

BJP against social justice, says Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru: Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah slammed the BJP saying that the party was against the concept of social justice and hence discontinued welfare measures initiated by his government for the oppressed classes. Siddaramaiah said that his government had started 'Vidyasiri' scheme where students were given ₹1,500 per month and other programmes to help those belonging to the backward and oppressed classes. "The BJP, which is in power now, has as stopped all these welfare schemes," the former chief minister thundered.

I know what scares DKS: Kumaraswamy

Bengaluru: Janata Dal Secular leader and former chief minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday said that he had a fair idea about KPCC president DK Shivakumar's behaviour. "I know when he feels scared and when he will come to us for an alliance. These are things only Shivakumar and I know. There are issues which scare him but I cannot talk about it now," Kumaraswamy said at the minority meeting on the last day of Janata Parva 1.0 at Kethganahallli, near Bidadi. Kumaraswamy also congratulated West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her resounding victory on Sunday.

Punjab in Karnataka, tweets CT Ravi

Bengaluru: BJP national general secretary C T Ravi said the Congress in Karnataka is in a crisis similar to Punjab due to internal bickering, with leaders fighting for the chief minister's post, though elections are over a year away. In a series of tweets, he made a veiled reference to former CM Siddaramaiah, KPCC chief D K Shivakumar and former DyCM Dr G Parameshwara throwing their hats in the ring for the CM's gaddi. "The ship without a captain has run amok in the sea and may sink anytime.Captain Amarinder Singh is all set to quit the party. How can a party with no stability lead the country into the future," Ravi tweeted.

Centre undermining democratic values: Kharge

Kalaburagi: Opposition Leader in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday lashed out at the Union Government saying it was not following democratic norms by passing several crucial Bills by voice vote in the Parliament without any debate. Kharge also slammed the Centre for introducing National Educational Policy. "BJP is introducing the hidden agenda of RSS through NEP," he said. He also praised Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for appointing Charanjit Singh Channi, a SC leader, as Punjab CM. Kharge said he won't retire from active politics and continue his fight till his last breath.

CM warns of cancelling nod to companies dormant for 10 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday warned of cancelling allotment of land, power supply and water to companies which have remained a non-starter in Karnataka even 10 years after they have been allotted the facilities.

"We are reviewing all projects where the clearances for water have been obtained but the water has not been utilised yet. Companies which are not setting up their units even after a decade, their allotment will be cancelled," Bommai told reporters here.

He said many major steel and power industries came for investment in this region 10 years ago and they got land and water allocation after obtaining clearances from a high-level committee.

"But for some reasons they have not started the industries. We will review them. Our objective is either the purpose for which land has been taken has to be achieved or some other facilities should be provided to the industries," he said.

While there have been complaints about access, especially from industrialists about Ballari, a land-locked district, Bommai said all issues will be addressed. "All hurdles will be removed to make the region investor-friendly," he said.

"It is our policy to give priority to those who will not only invest here but also generate employment," Bommai further said.

To a question on returning land taken from the farmers following cancellation of the project, Bommai said it would be reviewed.

We are reviewing all projects where the clearances for water have been obtained but the water has not been utilised yet. Companies which are not setting up their units even after a decade, their allotment will be cancelled

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

'Decision on resuming Class 1-5 after festive season'

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday said a decision regarding reopening of schools for classes 1-5 in the state will be taken after the festive season. He also said the state government has reopened weducational institutions not in a "hurry" but in a phased manner

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

664 CASES REPORTED TODAY

636 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TOTAL CASES | TODAY 29,77,889 | YESTERDAY 29,77,225

DEATHS | TODAY 8 | YESTERDAY 4

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until October 3, 2021, a total of 29,77,889 cases have been reported in 1 year and 208 days...

DISCHARGES | TODAY 711 | YESTERDAY 745

Active cases | TODAY 12,301 | YESTERDAY 12,356

POSITIVITY RATE | TODAY 6.19% | YESTERDAY 6.21%

The day positivity rate – 0.52% – is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE | TODAY 1.26% | YESTERDAY 1.27%

RECOVERY RATE | TODAY 98.31% | YESTERDAY 98.31%

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

196 BENGALURU URBAN

5 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot	0
Ballari	3
Belagavi	8
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	5
Chikkaballapur	2
Chikkamagaluru	1
Chitradurga	12
Dakshina Kannada	76
Davanagere	4
Dharwad	9
Gadag	0
Hassan	45
Haveri	1
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	52
Kolar	13
Koppal	2
Mandya	8
Mysuru	101
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	1
Shivamogga	11
Tumakuru	18
Udupi	33
Uttara Kannada	43
Vijayapura	1
Yadgir	2

Vax may be available for kids next month

Centre hopeful of positive outcome from talks with Zydus Cadila, says Sudhakar; 250 PHCs to be upgraded in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru/New Delhi

Many experts have warned that children could be more vulnerable to Covid-19 if a third wave hits the country | FILE

THE Covid-19 vaccine for children is likely to be available by November, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar announced on Sunday after meeting Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi. He said the Centre is hopeful of a positive response from the final round of discussions currently under way with Zydus Cadila. He was in New Delhi to receive the Healthgiri Award bagged by Karnataka, as the state emerging the best in Covid-19 management.

"I had a detailed discussion with the Union Minister about children's vaccination. He informed that final discussions are on with Zydus and a positive outcome is expected. Bharat Biotech Chairman and Managing Director Krishna Elaa was also present. He told us that the second clinical trial of a nasal vaccine developed by them was completed, and the third is expected by November-December," he added.

Elaa informed that the company has the capacity to manufacture 20 crore doses of vaccines in a month.

New PHC concept

Sudhakar reportedly urged Mandaviya for the Centre's support to upgrade 250 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the state under the National Health Mission. The Karnataka government has set aside a budget for this, and wants the Centre to bear the cost for 250 more this year. The state has 2,500 PHCs.

"Each PHC will cost about Rs 5-7 crore, and will be upgraded with better infrastructure and staff facilities. It will also house a wellness and health centre, an Ayush kendra and accommodation facilities for staff.

I had a detailed discussion with the Union Minister about children's vaccination. He informed us that final discussions are on with Zydus and a positive outcome is expected

Dr K Sudhakar, Health Minister

The number of doctors will be enhanced from one to three, and beds will be increased from 6 to 12," Dr Sudhakar said.

He agreed that many districts have few PHCs, and said he would discuss the issue with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. A detailed presentation will be made to the Union Minister on October 8 in the presence of the CM.

The government had set up a Vision Group for healthcare in 2020 under the leadership of Dr Gururaj, the then director of Nimhans. The document is now almost ready and is set to be unveiled soon. It is said to be the first of its kind in the country.

Agreeing that a few districts in North Karnataka -- Kalaburagi, Bidar, Raichur and Koppal -- have low vaccination rate, Sudhakar said there are last-mile connectivity issues, coupled with vaccine hesitancy. "We have noticed a delay in vaccine administration and also people coming forward to take vaccines. We have instructed District Commissioners to engage with communities which are showing hesitancy and also address misconceptions about vaccines," he said. In September, the state administered 1.48 crore vaccine doses, the highest in a month, and is hopeful of 100 per cent coverage by December 31.

Since Covid positivity rate is high in Kerala and Maharashtra, the Karnataka government has decided to continue with the RT-PCR certificate rule. "There is tremendous pressure from all sectors to relax this rule but we cannot afford to take a chance," he said.

Bengaluru's 70 containment zones have less than 10 Covid cases each

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU has over 1,336 households in containment zones, and at least 70 active containment zones (CZ), however, none of these zones has more than 10 cases. An area of 100-m radius is designated a containment zone if there are three positive cases.

Going by BBMP data, as of October 2, the city has 258 positive cases in CZs, which include 29 apartments, 35 individuals and four hostels or PG quarters. None of the schools and colleges are a containment zone. The 1,336 households include the total number of positives or households within the defined containment zone perimeter, which undergo intensive surveillance activities. Containment zones remain active for 14 days from the date of notification, unless extended.

The maximum number of active containment zones is in Bommanahalli with 16 CZs, followed by 13 in South Zone and 12 in East Zone. Mahadevapura has 10 CZs, Yelahanka has nine, Rajarajeshwari Nagar has two, and Dasarahalli has one.

Bommanahalli has 61 positive cases and 781 households in 16 containment zones. Most of the CZs are apartments, with at least eight apartment blocks marked as CZ. The highest number is seven cases, in SNN Raj Serenity apartments in Begur.

South Zone has 44 positive cases and 13 CZs, nine individual houses and four apartment blocks are marked as containment zones. The highest number of six positive cases was found in Yamuna Block of NGV Apartments in Ejipura.

"The number of cases has come down. In August, the number of containment zones crossed 100 but by the end of September, the numbers were falling. Many people are going back to work and catching the infection and there are a few cases of travel history as well," said a Bommanahalli zonal officer.

FIGHTING THE VIRUS

A marshal keeps a vigil at KSR Railway Station against Covid-19 norm violators while a health worker collects swab samples of a passenger on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

COVID BYTES

Mortality rate dips to 1.26%, 8 deaths reported

BENGALURU: Two days after Covid-19 mortality rate increased to 1.27% in Karnataka, it reduced to 1.26% on Sunday, with eight deaths taking the toll since the beginning of the pandemic to 37,819. Four people died in the state on Saturday. In Bengluru, however, the mortality rate remained the same at 1.29%, with three deaths taking the city's toll to 16,164. Since June 6, Covid-19 positivity rate has been on a steady decline in Karnataka. On Sunday, it fell to 6.19% after 664 fresh cases took the tally to 29,77,889. Meanwhile, Bengaluru reported less than 200 new cases (196). Bengaluru city was follwed by Mysuru (101), Dakshina Kannada (76) and Kodagu (52). Meanwhile, the state saw 711 discharges, a slight dip from Saturday's 745. ENS

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/F-/20-21/6887-89 Date:30.09.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry **No. KPTCL/ SEE/ Tr(M)/ BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/2020-21/EPR-22/Call-6 Dtd:18.03.2021** for the work of replacement of age old pneumatic type 220KV SF6 Breakers by spring mechanism type at the 220/66/11KV Somanahalli Receiving Station, in the jurisdiction of BMAZ South circle on partial turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials / equipment's (excluding 220kV Breakers and Conductors) and erection (including civil works) of all materials / equipment's, testing and commissioning.
The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e-Procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.10.2021.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Maintenance), BMAZ South Circle, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009, Tele-Fax: 080-22386686/85

ರೈತರ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆ ನಿಯಮಿತ
RYATAR SAHAKARI SAKKARE KARKHANE NIYAMIT.
ರನ್ನ ನಗರ ತಿಮ್ಮಾಪುರ-587 122, ತಾ॥ ಮುಧೋಳ ಜಾ॥ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ)
RANNANAGAR, TIMMAPUR-587 122, Tq: Mudhol, Dist: Bagalkot (Karnataka)
E-Mail: ranna_sugar@rediffmail.com, rannasugar@gmail.com Mobile: 9900258702

RSSKN/LEASE/LROT/2021-22/441 Date: 30-09-2021

NOTICE

Reference is invited to the Tender Notification number RSSK/Lease/LROT/2021-22/441 dated 08.09.2021 issued by the Ryatar Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane, Ni., Timmapur, Mudhol Taluk, Bagalkot District, inviting offers to operate its factory on LROT (Lease, Rehabilitate, Operate and transfer) for a period of 40 Years on the terms and conditions enumerated thereunder.
However, due to administrative reasons the Management has, based on the deliberation held on16.09.2021 ,at the office of the Hon'ble Commissioner, Cane Development and Director Sugar, Government of Karnataka, 5th Floor, CBAB Complex, KHB Building, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, rescheduled the timelines stipulated in the earlier Notice dated 08.09.2021. Accordingly, the interested parties are hereby informed that the following revised timelines have been fixed:
1.Revised last date for submission of the filled in tenders will be 22.10.2021 upto 5PM;
2.Revised date for opening the technical Bids will be 25.10.2021 at 11.30 AM;
3.Revised date for opening the Financial Bids will be 26.10.2021 at 11.30AM.
Place : In the office the Hon'ble Commissioner, Cane Development and Director Sugar, Government of Karnataka, 5th Floor, CBAB Complex, KHB Building, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru,
The details of tender document and other terms and conditions can be downloaded/viewed in. https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Ref:RSSKN/ADM/Lease/2021-22/CALL-2.
The State Government/ Sugar Factory reserves its rights to accept or reject any or all the tenders at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Sd/-
DRCS Bagalkot & Managing Director Chairman

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
HYDERABAD ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

CALLING FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR A BRIDGE
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO WIN REWARD & RECOGNITION

Hyderabad Road Development Corporation Limited (HRDCL), a Government of Telangana Corporation, plans to build 12 bridges across Musi River in and around Hyderabad and invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Design Competition for Bridge design that includes

1) FACADE DEVELOPMENT 2) ELEVATION 3) GATEWAYS

The selected design will be used for all 12 bridges.
The basic thrust will be on the heritage look of the bridge especially depicting elements of Hyderabad Architecture & Heritage.

Who all are Eligible
Architecture Consultants / Firms / Experts / Individuals / Students of Architectural Colleges / Universities and any other agencies are eligible to participate.

Details of Rewards
First Prize : Rs. 2,00,000/-
Second Prize : Rs. 1,00,000/- Third Prize: Rs. 50,000/-

3 Consolation Prizes of Rs. 20,000/- each & Certificate of Appreciation for all entries
Details are available on e-market place from 01.10.2021, 4.00 PM onwards
Please visit: www.tender.telangana.gov.in / www.ghmc.gov.in / www.nium.org.in
Details are also available at HRDCL office, 3rd Floor, Old Metro Bhavan, Saifabad
Last date for Submission: 25.10.2021, 3:00 PM (Both Online & at the Office of HRDCL)

SD/- CHIEF ENGINEER & COO, HRDCL, HYDERABAD
Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHUTOSH, S/o No.13622779Y, Rank: HAV, Name: Girish Chandra, presently resviding at Vill-Jaspur, PO-Chham, Teh-Tehari Dist, Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand)-249132 have changed my name from ASHUTOSH to ASHUTOSH KHANDURI vide affidavit dated 30/09/2021 before Notary Leela.A, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASLAM @ P.H. ANSAR BASHA, S/o Ahmed @ P.H. Ameer Sab, presently R/a No. 70/2/3-A, Hirandahalli, Bidarahalli Hobli, Virgonagar Post, Bangalore-560049, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **ALSAM** and **P.H. ANSAR BASHA** are one and the same and belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 25-09-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **UMAMAHESHWARY .M.N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHINNALAKSHMI, W/o Late Ex Sep Annamalai (No.6804753), R/o Vinayagapuram, Kurubarapalli Post, Krishnagiri taluk & District, Tamilnadu, declares that my correct name is **CHINNALAKSHMI** and not **LACHMI** as recorded in my husbands service records by mistake, both **LACHMI** & **CHINNALAKSHMI** belongs to same person i.e. me, vide affidavit dated 01.10.2021 swom before notary V. Parthiban, Krishnagiri 635001

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMIT JAIN, S/o Mr. Ashok Kumar Jain, aged about 39 years, presently R/a No. 482, 2nd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Opp Reliance Fresh, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AMIT SETHI** to **AMIT JAIN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AMIT JAIN** only, vide affidavit dated 1-10-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. VEENA** at Bangalore.

BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE
EXPRESS CONNECTS

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JAVERIAN'S SINCE 1910
INDIGESTION GAS IBS BURNING SENSATION in Stomach
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Available in 4 Sizes
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Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra.
Kengeri Branch : Site No 1107,2nd Floor, 1st Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Opposite to Dominos, Kengeri - 560060, (Karnataka). OA : **Wilson I,** Mob No.**8792879216**.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on **'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis',** Particulars of which are given below:-

Sl No.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)
1.	**Appl No : V0138681 (Kengeri Branch) Kuppuswamy C** (Borrower) **Chitra P** (Co Borrower)	15-04-2021 ₹ 17,34,332.00	Site No 27 & 28, Sy No 99/1, Sulivara Village, Tavarekere, Bangalore - 562130, Karnataka. Bounded on **East by :** Site No 29, **West by :** Site No 26, **North by :** Road and **South by :** Property belonging to others.	₹ 24,96,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Only)	₹ 2,49,600.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Only)

1. **Last Date of Submission of Sealed Bid/ Offer** in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is **08.11.2021** within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
2. **Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date)** for Property is **09.11.2021** at the above mentioned branch office address at 3:00 PM. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.
3. The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, to remain present personally at the time of sale and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.
4. **30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physcial possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to pay the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.**
5. The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer. However, the Authorised Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The Property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
6. **AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.**
7. The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of '**Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only.**
8. The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mentioned Branch office. Authorised officer reserve the rights to extend the date of tender or change the terms & conditions of bidding. For further details & other terms & conditions of bidding please visit our branch and website : **www.aadharhousing.com**
For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Place : Kengeri
Date : 4.10.2021

Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Nearly four days after a 24-year-old man was found murdered in Belagavi over his relationship with a girl from another community, eight people were arrested by the Railway police

KSR stn gets facial recognition system

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

The exterior of KSR station | FILE

A digital cordon envelops the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna (Bengaluru City) railway station as it has become the first railway station in the country to adopt the Facial Recognition System (FRS) technology. Within 90 days of the surveillance system going live, 47 history-sheeters have been identified within the station premises.

The South Western Railway (SWR) Zone is the first in Indian Railways to implement it. Similar IT-based projects are being attempted at all railway zones for improving security at stations, said Chief Public Relations Officer, SWR, E Vijaya. "This is an artificial intelligence-based application that can uniquely identify a person by analysing patterns based on the person's facial textures and shape. The facial recognition system is widely adopted as it is a contactless and non-invasive process," she added.

On apprehensions that it could breach the privacy of individuals, she stressed, "We are only comparing the faces of criminals and missing persons and alerting if they match. No personal data is stored or used for anything else other than security purposes."

A total of 157 cameras, sourced from Belgium, have been installed across the station premises at Rs 2.4 crore, she said.

A railway security official said, "Apart from identifying history-sheeters, it also helped us reunite a senior citizen who was reported missing. We fed our database with her picture and it helped us track her."

The pilot project was launched in May 2019 at KSR and it went live a few months ago after satisfying all tests. The Railway Protection Force staff monitor the cameras 24x7.

Sanjeev Kishore, General Manager, SWR, said, "The aim of facial recognition technology is to create a digital perimeter around the KSR railway station."

Mechanic murdered by father-in-law

ENS @ Bengaluru

A 46-year-old mechanic was attacked by his father in-law over an alleged dowry harassment in Hennur on Saturday evening, which resulted in the former's death. The deceased has been identified as Mohammed Mahboob. The police arrested the accused Nazeer Ahmed (56), a tailor. A senior police officer said the incident occurred around 7 pm when Mahboob was at his workshop.

Ahmed arrived and quarrelled with him. In the melee, he picked up an iron rod and struck Mahboob's head. The latter collapsed and was rushed to hospital, where he was declared brought dead. Preliminary investigation revealed that Mahboob had married Ahmed's daughter six months ago. He was allegedly harassing her over dowry. He had sent her away, and she began living with her parents at Geddalahalli. Recently, however, relatives convinced her to seek time to arrange a sum of Rs 4 lakh. But Mahboob allegedly tortured her again and sent her back. This reportedly led to the scuffle between him and his father-in-law.

CRIME PATROL

Police looking into fake govt websites

BENGALURU: The Cyber Crime police have registered a case against an unknown person for creating nine fake websites, which mimic those of the treasury department, in a bid to cheat people. The gazetted officer approached the city police, requesting that such websites be blocked to prevent any fraud transactions and misuse. However, police are yet to identify the accused behind this crime.

Hardware shop owner, sons held with drug

BENGALURU: The KR Puram police on Sunday busted a drug racket after raiding a hardware shop and arresting its owner, along with his two sons, for allegedly selling opium. The police recovered 1.9 kg of opium worth Rs 36 lakh and four mobile phones. The prime accused Boraram, who owns the shop, sourced the drugs from his native Rajasthan. he has been arrested along with his sons -- Jitendra and Sunil.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISON, BHAWANIPATNA.
e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com, eerwss_kld@nic.in, Phone No: 06670-230784

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e - TENDERING
Bid Identification No- 44/EE/RWSS/ 2021-22 /Bpt Dated.28.09.2021
O-792 01.Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only. From	To	Date of opening (Technical Bid)
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	44/EE/RWSS/ 2021-22 /Bpt Dated- 28.09.2021	07.10.2021 10.00 AM	27.10.2021 05.30 PM	28.10.2021 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper to be made online payment system.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tenderodisha.gov.in.
The original documents should be scanned and uploaded.
Sd/-Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-25005/11/0020/2122

QuoteExpress
THE WAY TO GET STARTED IS TO QUIT TALKING AND BEGIN DOING
WALT DISNEY

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-18)
P & SC No. 516/2021

BETWEEN: **01. Prajapati Jha,** Aged about 70 years, S/o. Late Hiralal Jha, Residing at No.4, Hema Kunch, I Cross, Dinnur, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.
02. Tushar Jha, Aged about 40 years, S/o. Prajapati Jha and Late Smt. Suchitra Jha, Residing at 40673, Encanto Way, FREMONT, CA 94539, U.S.A.
03. Smt. Deepshikha Jha @ Smt. Deepshikha Motgi, Aged about 37 years, D/o. Prajapati Jha and Smt. Suchitra Jha, Residing at 1482, BITTERN, DR SUNNYVALE, CA 94087, U.S.A.
Petitioner Nos. 2 and 3 are represented by their CPA holder Shri Raghupathi Jha, S/o.Prajapati Jha, Aged about 34 years, Residing at No.4, Hema Kunch, I Cross, Dinnur, R.T.Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.
04. Raghupati Jha, S/o. Prajapati Jha, Aged about 34 years, Residing at No.4, Hema Kunch, I Cross, Dinnur, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 032.
...Petitioners
AND : NIL ...Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named have filed petition to this court under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in the name of the Petitioner No.3 authorizing her to receive the original title deeds in respect of the schedule property deposited with Axis Bank, Asset Sale Centre-BLR, Sahakarnagar, No. 19, 60' Road, Sahakarnagar, Bangalore - 560 092. The below mentioned schedule property was held jointly by Miss. Deepshikha Jha & Mrs. Suchitra Jha. Mrs. Suchitra Jha wife of the petitioner No. 1 and mother of petitioner No. 2 to 4 herein who died on 18.11.2017.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 27.10.2021 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the prayer of petitioner failing which the petition will be heard and considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of vacant residential site bearing No.65, EURO Vally 3 Daffodils, "Jeevan Prakash", Carved out of converted land bearing Sy.No.54/1, situated at Chennahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, vide conversion order dated 04.08.2008 in ALN(NA)/Jala/SR. 106, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116/07-08. Site measuring East to West 15 mtrs North to South 9 Meters, admeasuring 1454 sq Mtrs, Bounded on
East by : Site No.7, West by : Road, North by : Site No.66, South by : Site No. 64
Given under my seal and authority on this the 24th day of September 2021.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFFS :
Sri. T.P. Vivekananda, Sri. Rajayoga K.,
Advocates
No.14/19, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 5th Block, Kumara Park (West), BANGALORE-560 020.
9844254843

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.
I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/8443/2021-22/2608 Dated: 01.10.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (3rd CALL) (E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers for Proposed Construction of Airport for ATR-72-600-Aircraft for Day VFR Operation in Vijayapur City. (Phase-2) (Indent No. 137623-Call-3) work as per standard bid documents KW-4 with 8443-Deposit Contribution head of account **costing of amount for Rs. 6912.00 Lakhs respectively. Time allowed for completion of work is 15 months including mansoon.** The EMD amount as per Govt Order exempted (Contractor Should enclose EMD Declation in Declaration in priscribed format vide GO No.FD/675/Expenditure/12/2020 Bangalore Dated-11/12/2020). For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor seperately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as detarmaind by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows **1)** The Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors **Date:16.10.2021 @ 11.00 AM. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders **Date:22.10.2021 upto 4.30 PM. 3)** Opening of Technical Bid **Date:25.10.2021 at 11.00 AM. 4)** Opening of Financial Bid **Date:27.10.2021 at 11.00 AM.** Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,PWD Division, Vijayapur
DIPR/Vijayapur/312/MCA/2021-22

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, BANGALORE
PROBATE PETITION No. 515/2021

BETWEEN: **Mr. SUBRAMANYAM VENKATESHAM,** Aged about 79 years, S/o. late Shri. D V Subramanyam, Residing at No. 106, The Good Earth Apartments Cambridge, 2nd Cross Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru - 560 008. **...PETITIONER**
AND: **NIL ...RESPONDENT**

NOTICE

Whereas, the above named Petitioner has made a Petition for Probate under Section 276 of India Succession Act, 1925 against the NIL Respondent.
Any person objecting the above petition, is hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed **on the 16.11.2021 at 11.00 a.m.** to show-cause against the petition, failing which the said petition will be heard and determined ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the residential property bearing New Municipal No. 15 (Old No 1529), PID No. 9-13-15, situated at 9th Main, A Block, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru, Subramanyanagar Ward, Ward No. 66, measuring **East to West 36+38/2 feet and North to South 30 feet,** totally measuring 1110 square feet along with Ground and First Floor residential building, with car shed and residential portion on first floor and bounded as follows:
East by : Road, West by : CITB Site No. 2500, North by: CITB Site No. 1528, South by : CITB Site No. 1530.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 30th day of September 2021.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Mr. B.R. Shashibushan, Advocate
having office at No. 12, Suhrutha, Anjaneya Temple Street, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064.

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)
MM Building, Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302006
Tel. 0141-2202607, E-Mail id:- semm2@jvvnl.org

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for purchase of Fully automatic meter Testing Bench (TN-2698, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00266), 33 KV Surge Arresters (TN-2699, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00267), Silica Gel (TN-2700, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00268), Breather with Silica Gel for Power Transformers (TN-2701, UBN-VVN2122GSOB00269) and Cable Fault Locating Machine (TN-2702, UBN-VVN2122GLOB00270). All the details regarding tenders are available at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. In future, corrigendum/ extension, if any, shall be published only at above web sites.
JPR 2643 (2021) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)
Raj.samwad/C/21/6845 For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001** and one of the Branch Offices at **No. 253, 16th Cross, 5th Phase, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural - 560078** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **23-04-2021** followed by publication date **09-07-2021** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) M/s. Aravind Infracon India Private Limited, No.1208, 2nd Floor, 41st Cross, 26th Main, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore - 560092. No.2) Mr. J.V. Krishna Reddy, S/o. Lakshmi Reddy Janke, No.502, SARVAJIT HEIGHTS Apartment, Gottigere, Bannerghata Road, Bangalore - 83. No.3) Mrs. J. Padmaja Reddy, W/o. J.V. Krishna Reddy, No.502, SARVAJIT HEIGHTS Apartment, Gottigere, Bannerghata Road, Bangalore - 83** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.1,83,59,170 /- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Three Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand One Hundred and Seventy Only)** within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **15-04-2021** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 28th day of September 2021.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs. 1,96,30,524/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Six Lakh Thirty Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Three Only)** and interest thereon from **28-09-2021** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Notes: 1) That our **236-Bengaluru - J.P. Nagar Branch** has also extended financial assistance (FITL - ADHOC:501912090016369) dated **02-09-2020** requested by No.1 of you represented by No. 2 of you as Director for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 11,64,000/-** at a ROI of **13%**. The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **31-03-2021** and the outstanding balance as on **27-09-2021** is **Rs. 13,08,795/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **28-09-2021** till the date of realization.

2) That our **640-Bengaluru - ISRO Layout Branch** has also extended financial assistance (OTHER HOUSING LOAN > 25 L:501312030005641) dated **29-10-2015** requested by No.3 of you for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 35,50,000/-** at a ROI of **12%**. The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **29-10-2016** and the outstanding balance as on **27-09-2021** is **Rs. 35,57,479/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **28-09-2021** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Property- 1 : (Properties Owned by Mrs. J. Padmaja Reddy, W/o. J.V. Krishna Reddy)
Schedule - A Property

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.121/1 present BBMP Khatha No.850/4464/1, 4444/21 duly converted for Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore, District Bangalore vide conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)31/1997-98 dated 20-10-1997 and renewed conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR3/2006-07 dated 13-02-2007 V.P.Khatha No.4444-49 & 4464-67 situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Bangalore measuring East to West 145 ft. and North to South in the Western side 64 ft. and Eastern side 65 ft. and bounded on: East By : Property in Sy.No.122/1, West By : Road, North By : Private Property, South By : Property Nos.20,15 & 3.

Schedule - B Property

All that Residential Flat bearing No.404 in the Third floor in the Apartment building known as SARVAJIT Heights having a super built up area of 1,291 Sq.ft. constructed on the Schedule-A Property and together with 418 Sq.ft. undivided Share, Right, Title and interest in the Schedule-A property consisting of One Living room, One Dining Hall, Two Bed Rooms, One Kitchen, Two Toilets and Bathrooms, with R.C.C Roof, Vitrified Flooring, Doors and Windows are made of jungle wood, with all civic amenities like Water, Sanitary, Electricity with Lift and Common Power back Generator facilities along with right to use, Car Parking area at Basement Floor and Other amenities in the Schedule A Property.

Property - 2 : (Properties Owned by Mrs. J. Padmaja Reddy, W/o. J.V. Krishna Reddy)
Schedule - A Property

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No. 121/1 present BBMP Khatha No. 850/4464/1, 4444/21 duly converted for Non Agricultural Residential purpose by the Deputy Commissoner Bangalore District Bangalore vide conversion order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)31/1997-98 dated 20-10-1997 and renewed Conversion Order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR3/2006-07 dated 13-02-2017 V.P.Khatha No. 4444-49 & 4464-67 situated at Gottigere Village Uttarahalli Hobli Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore measuring East to West 145 ft. and North to South in the Western side 64 ft. and Eastern side 65 ft. and bounded on : East by : Property in Sy. No. 122/1 West by : Road North by : Private property South by : Property Nos. 20,15 & 3.

Schedule - B Property

All that residential flat bearing No. T1 in the terrace floor in the apartment building known as SARVAJIT HEIGHT having a super built up area of 2,800 Sq. ft. constructed on the Schedule A property and together with 900 Sq. ft. undivided Share, Right , Title and interest in the Schedule A property consisting of One living room, One dining hall, Three bed rooms, One meditation room, One Kitchen, Two toilets and bathrooms with all civic amenities like Water Sanitary Electricity with Lift and Common Power back Generator facilities along with right to use, Car parking No.T 1 area at Basement Floor and other amenities in the Schedule A - property.

Place : Bengaluru, Date: 28-09-2021 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.66,91,915/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakh Ninety One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen Only)** as on **29-09-2021** together with further interest to be charged from **30-09-2021** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Pavan Kumar Goyal, S/o. Mr. Jaya Prakash Goyal, No.3428, 13th Cross, K.R. Road, Near M.M. Brigade, Shasthri Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560028. No.2) Mrs. Madhu Goyal, W/o. Pavan Kumar Goyal, No.3428, 13th Cross, K.R. Road, Near M.M. Brigade, Shasthri Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560028. No.3) Mr. M.S. Reddy, S/o. Venkatarama Reddy, No.60, Vinayaka Nagar, Behind SFS School, Huskur Circle, Electronic City, Bangaluru - 560100.**

Note : That our **512-R.T. Nagar- Bangalore Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080062480) dated **30-03-2020** requested by No.1 of you for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 8,50,000/-** at a ROI of **15.5%**. The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **25-11-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **29-09-2021** is **Rs.10,91,260/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Ninety One Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Only)** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **30-09-2021** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Pavan Kumar Goyal, S/o. Mr. Jaya Prakash Goyal)

All that piece and parcel of residential converted vacant site bearing No.7, Old Khatha No.193, present Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike New Municipal No.730/253/254/11/7, formed out of the residential converted Survey No.11, Situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 192 Ward of BBMP, measuring East to West 91.8 feet, North to South 103 feet, in all 9,455.4 square feet together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface. Boundaries : East by : Private Property, West by : 30 feet Road, North by : Private property, South by : Krishnappa's.

Schedule - B

310 square feet of undivided share of Right, Title and Interest in land of the schedule - A property .

Schedule - C

Apartment bearing No.201 in Second Floor, in the building Neha Sadan to be constructed on schedule property measuring 1,400 square feet of super built up area containing 3 Bedrooms, Hall, Dining and Kitchen, One Covered Car Parking along with Proportionate Share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase, Lift, excluding terrace, contained within the residential apartment known as Neha Sadan to be constructed on schedule property as per building specification (Annexure-I). Boundaries : East - Flat No.207, West - Flat No.202, North - Corridor, South - Stairs.

Reserve Price: Rs.73,00,000/-
(Rupees Seventy Three Lakh Only)

AUCTION DETAILS	
Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
12-11-2021	**City Union Bank Limited, R.T. Nagar-Bangalore Branch,** 590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032. Telephone No.080-23337000, Cell No. 9342855177.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, R.T.Nagar-Bangalore Branch, 590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560032. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23337000, Cell No. 9342855177. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 01-10-2021 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL, BANGALORE
C.C H No: 73
P & SC No:25066/2021

BETWEEN:
1. **Mrs FARHEEN SULTANA V.K** W/o Late Fazeel J, Aged about 36 years, No: 16, 3rd Cross, Vinobha Nagar, Arabic College K.G Halli, Bangalore – 560045
2. **Mr JAMEEL PASHA @ M JAMEEL BASHA,** S/o Late T M Abdul Majeed Aged about 66 years,
3. **Mrs ZEENATH BEGUM** W/o Jameel Pasha @ M Jameel Basha, Aged about 53 years, petitioners 2 and 3 are residing at No: 128, Ground Floor, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051
4. **Miss HAFSA HARMAIEN F,** D/o Late Fazeel J, Aged about 6 years
5. **Mr F MOHAMMED MUAAZ,** S/o Late Fazeel J, Aged about 3 years

Petitioners 4 & 5 are represented by their legal guardian and Paternal Grandfather, Mr Jameel Pasha @ M Jameel Basha and are residing at No: 16, 3rd Cross, Vinobha Nagar, Arabic College, K.G Halli, Bangalore – 560045 ***... PETITIONERS***
Vs
NIL ***... RESPONDENT***

Whereas the petitioners have filed the above petition under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the First Petitioner, holding that the petitioners are entitled to the succeed to provident fund, E.D.L.I., gratuity and life insurance policy etc., of Late Fazeel J, who died on 01.05.2021.
Interested parties are hereby notified to appear in the court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 22nd Day of October 2021 11 'o' Clock in the forenoon, to show-cause against the above petition. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the date before mentioned, the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this the 30th day of September 2021.

By Order of the Court
City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-73)
Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.
Advocate for the Petitioners
SYED NIZAMUDDIN & SYED FAKHRUDDIN
Advocates
No:25, 1st Floor, Central Street, Shivajinagar, Bangalore - 560001

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its Administrative Office at No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices of **City Union Bank Ltd.** as mentioned below: Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) & (12), read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated as mentioned below calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The borrowers below named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers below named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The borrowers below named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount as mentioned below and interest till the repayment of entire dues.

City Union Bank Ltd., No. 590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032.

I. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. V. Muniyappa, S/o. Venkateshappa, No.1262, Near BES School, Hebbagodi, Bommasandra Industrial Estate, Bangalore - 560099. No.2. Mrs. Rathnamma, W/o. V. Muniyappa No.1262, Near BES School, Hebbagodi, Bommasandra Industrial Estate, Bangalore - 560099.

Date of Demand Notice : 06-05-2021 followed by paper publication dated 17-07-2021. Date of Possession: 29-09-2021. Amount Outstanding : Rs.67,22,816/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixteen Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 29-09-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Property - 1 : (Property Owned By Mr. V. Muniyappa, S/o. Venkateshappa)

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted Vacant Site bearing No.7, Old Khatha No.193, present Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike New Municipal No.730/253/254/11/7, formed out of the Residentially converted Survey No.11, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 192 Ward of BBMP, measuring East to West 91 8 feet, North to South 103 feet in all 9,455.4 square feet together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface. Boundaries : East by : Private Property, West by : 30 feet Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Krishnappa's. Property Schedule - B Apartment bearing No.404 in Fourth Floor in the building Neha Sadan to be constructed on Schedule - A property measuring 1,250 Sq.feet of super built up area containing 2 Bedrooms, Hall Dining and Kitchen, One Covered Car Parking along with proportionate share in Common Areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase, Lift excluding Terrace, contained within the residential apartment known as Neha Sadan to be constructed on Schedule property as per building specification (Annexure-I). Boundaries East : Flat No.405, West : Flat No.403, North : Open to sky, South : Corridor.

II. Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. K.S. Avinash, S/o. Late. K.R. Sathish, No.A-3, Guru-Krupa Residency, 6th Cross, 9th Main, Gururaja Layout, B.S.K, 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560085. No.2) Mrs. B.P. Nagarathna, W/o. Late. K.R. Sathish, No.A-3, Guru-Krupa Residency, 6th Cross, 9th Main, Gururaja Layout, B.S.K, 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560085. No.3) Mr. A Vishwantha, S/o. Jayaramaiah, No.160, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Behind Karumariyamma Temple Kamalanagar Bangalore North Basaveshwaranagar Banagalore North, Karnataka - 560079.

Date of Demand Notice: 06-05-2021 followed by paper publication dated 18-07-2021. Date of Possession: 29-09-2021. Amount Outstanding : Rs.55,81,679/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Nine Only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 29-09-2021 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. A Vishwantha, S/o. Jayaramaiah)

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted Vacant Site bearing No.7, Old Khatha No.193, present Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike New Municipal No.730/253/254/11/7, formed out of the Residentially converted Survey No.11, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 192 Ward of BBMP, measuring East to West 91'8" feet, North to South 103 feet in all 9,455.4 square feet together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface. Boundaries : East by : Private Property, West by : 30 feet Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Krishnappa's Property Schedule B Apartment bearing No.407 in Fourth Floor in the building Neha Sadan to be constructed on Schedule A property measuring 1,250 sq.feet of super bui lt up area containing 2 Bedrooms, Hall Dinning and Kitchen, One Covered Car Parking along with proportionate share in Common Area such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase, Lift excluding terrace, contained with the residential apartment known as Neha Sadan to be constructed on Schedule property as per building specification (Annexure-I). Boundaries : East : Private Property, West : Flat No.401, North : Corridor, South : Corridor and Stairs.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 29-09-2021
Authorised Officer
City Union Bank Ltd.

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax: 080 25084155)
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BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tender is invited for the following work.

Sl.No	Description	Details				
1	Name of work	'Providing Air-Conditioning facility to extension to Clean Room Area at URSC-Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Passenger and Goods lift to Proposed extension to clean room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Double Girder EOT Cranes to Proposed extension to clean room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	Providing Heavy duty Motorised Horizontal steel sliding/Swing doors to Proposed extension to clean room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017	'Providing Compressed Air facility to Proposed extension to Clean Room at URSC Main Campus, Vimanapura, Bangalore-560017
2	E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/EACD/ExCR_AC/1022 /ETN-49A/2021-22 Dt.30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/ExCR_Lift/1023 /ETN-84M/2021-22 Dt.30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/ExCR_Crane/ 1024/ETN-85M/2021-22 Dt.30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/ExCR_Door/ 1025/ETN-86M/2021-22 Dt.30.08.2021	URSC/C and MG/EACD/ExCR_Cp/1026 /ETN-87M/2021-22 Dt.30.08.2021
3	Estimated cost put to Tender	Rs. 809.90 Lakhs	Rs. 86.68 Lakhs	Rs. 255.61 Lakhs	Rs. 145.03 Lakhs	Rs. 34.38 Lakhs
4	Tender Document Details	E-Tender				
5	'Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	210 Days				
6	'Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10.30 Hrs. on 04.10.2021 to 16:30Hrs. on 25.10.2021				
7	Bid clarification	From 11.00 Hrs. on 04.10.2021 to 17:00 Hrs. on 27.10.2021				
8	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17.00hrs on 29.10.2021				
9	Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 05.11.2021				
10	Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 05.11.2021				
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	EMD declaration shall be submitted in prescribed format, as enclosed				

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details alomg with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Sd/-, Group Director (Construction & Maintenance Group)

A six-year-old boy was killed in sleep after he was hit with a hammer on his head by his aunt's husband who broke into the house at Amakkandam in Idukki on Sunday morning. Abdul Fathah Raihan, of Riyas Manzil was killed by Muhammed Shan

Inter-faith relationship: 8 held for murder of youth

Girl's father, prime accused of right-wing forum among those arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

Nearly four days after a 24-year-old youth was found brutally murdered in Belagavi over his relationship with a girl from another community, eight people have been taken into custody by the Railway police.

Arbaz Aftab Mulla, a car dealer from Khanapur, was decapitated and his body dumped on the railway tracks, allegedly by members of a right-wing organisation who had earlier threatened the victim and his mother.

According to sources, the police have also seized an ambulance, which is said to belong to the organisation, from the crime scene.

The youth's mutilated body was found on the railway tracks at Desur, near Khanapur, on September 28.

A railway guard, who saw the body, found a phone in the pocket and informed the victim's mother Najeema Sheikh. She rushed to the spot and identified the body.

The accused and the seized material are being handed over to the district police. The state government has transferred the case to the district police, according to police sources.

Najeema Sheikh, a government school teacher, said some people, who had introduced themselves as social activists, had been threatening her son. In her police complaint, she accused the girl's father, social activist Pundalik Maharaj and his associate Birje of killing her son. Police sources confirmed that those rounded up include these three people.

According to Najeema, Maharaj and his associates sought "settlement money" from her son. "He had paid them Rs 7,000, but they kept demanding more. My son told me that they were seeking Rs 90,000. I had told him to pay it off and forget the whole issue. He was arranging the money," she said.

She also alleged that Maharaj had been threatening her and Arbaz. "Maharaj told me that he has 40 pending police cases against him and he won't be bothered if another case was filed against him. He had even called us to Khanapur to face a 'trial' before a crowd of supporters of the right-wing organisation. But when we went, there were only a few people, and the girl's father. I told the father that I had spoken to the girl's mother and that we had decided to end the relationship. When the families had made a decision, what was the need for outsiders to interfere? When I raised this question, Maharaj got angry and said that a Muslim boy having a relationship with a Hindu girl was not acceptable. But I did not know that they would go to the extent of killing my son. I will fight a legal battle to see that the offenders are punished," she said.

AIMIM PROTEST RALLY

AIMIM state general secretary Latif Khan Pathan said the party will stage a protest of Friday, if the murderers are not arrested by Wednesday. They have also planned to invite AIMIM president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi to Belagavi for the protest. The district police should get its act together and complete the probe impartially, he added.

He had paid them Rs 7,000, but they kept demanding more. My son told me that they were seeking Rs 90,000. I had told him to pay it off and forget the whole issue. He was arranging the money

Najeema Sheikh, mother of victim Arbaz Aftab Mulla

JUMBO BATH

A Dasara elephant enjoys a scrub and a shower on the palace premises in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

BJP sets ball rolling for Huzurabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Karimnagar

AFTER the high-octane public meeting in Husnabad in the neighbouring Siddipet district on Saturday marking the end of BJP State president Bandi Sanjay's padayatra, the party on Sunday kick-started its election campaign in Huzurabad with all guns blazing, and trained those guns at TRS supremo and Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Sanjay Kumar blew a conch to symbolise the launch of the campaign, and was accompanied by party nominee Eatala Rajender and Huzurabad election in-charge AP Jithender Reddy.

Addressing party activists, Sanjay Kumar asked them to ensure that the TRS nominee does not even get his security deposit back in the byelection. "The Huzurabad bypoll is a battle between currency notes and the lotus flower. If TRS leaders approach you, take whatever money they offer you but vote for BJP on the day of polling," he exhorted them.

The BJP leader said that Rao had done nothing for Telangana. In fact, he went on a Deeksha during the heady days of Telangana movement because he was afraid of the students of Osmania University, and not out of commitment for Telangana, he said.

BJD juggernaut secures Pipili bypoll

BIJAY CHAKI @ Bhubaneswar

RULING BJD on Sunday won the bypoll to Pipili Assembly constituency with consumate ease without party boss and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik having to break even a sweat to secure the regional outfit's fourth straight by-election victory since the 2019 General Elections.

Rudra Pratap Maharathy, BJD candidate and son of late Pradip Maharathy whose untimely death necessitated the poll, notched up 96,972 votes to defeat his rival Ashrit Pattanayak from the BJP with a margin of 20,916 votes. Pattanayak received 76,056 votes.

At third position, Congress continued in its downward spiral as its nominee Biswokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra polled 4,261 votes, just 2.36 per cent (pc) to lose his deposit along with seven others who were in the fray.

This is BJD's biggest victory in Pipili and it netted 53.6 pc votes to assert its dominance. More than that, the ruling dispensation also displayed that its election-winning formula has no match. Come to think of it, Naveen did not campaign at Pipili. Setting to rest all speculations, he flew to Delhi at a crucial time leaving his team to handle the poll business.

It is for the first time that BJD has won a bypoll without its tallest leader campaigning for the party candidate. He did not even address the Pipili electorate virtually.

Kerala colleges to reopen today after 18 months

Students return to hostels on Sunday a day ahead of reopening of colleges in Kochi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@T'Puram

COLLEGES in the state will reopen for regular offline classes on Monday after remaining shut for nearly 18 months owing to the Covid pandemic. While final-year undergraduate and post-graduate classes will begin on Monday, first- and second-year undergraduate classes and other higher educational institutions will open on October 18.

College campuses have already been disinfected. Classes will be held strictly adhering to Covid protocol. Seating arrangements will be in such a way that social distancing norms are followed properly. Higher Education Minister R Bindu on Sunday had an online conversation with some students through her official Facebook page to allay fears of students and parents. She affirmed that classes will be conducted complying with Covid protocol and the safety and well-being of students will not be compromised.

The state government had issued an order stating that only students, teachers and other staff who have taken both doses of the vaccine will be allowed to come to campuses. PG courses will be held with full attendance while it would be 50% for final-year degree courses. The schedule of the classes can be decided by college councils.

In the first phase, priority will be given to practical classes in science subjects. Classes for other semesters will continue in the online mode. Classrooms, libraries and laboratories have been sanitised with the help of local self-government bodies, health workers and NGOs.

The state government had urged institutional heads to ensure that students adhere to Covid protocol strictly.

ADDRESSING KEY PROBLEMS

Need for collaboration to fight dengue: Experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We have used only the domain III of the envelope protein from all four serotypes to avoid ADE. We have added the NS1 protein that is known to generate both T cell and B cell response," said Dr Arun Sankaradoss. T and B cells are white blood cells that are part of the immune system that can fight the viral antigens.

"We know there are four serotypes of the virus, but what we found was that there were genetic variations within the serotypes. Any sequence with over 6 per cent difference is considered to be a different genotype. The team created a consensus sequence that is the same across genotypes as well," said Prof Sudhir Krishna, senior author and anchor of the dengue vaccine development programme at NCBS in Bengaluru, and distinguished visiting professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Goa.

Apart from NCBS, the initiative included Indian Institute of Science (IISc), St John's Medical College in Bengaluru, Kasturba Hospital in Mumbai, All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jodhpur, AIIMS Delhi (both worked as clinical and basic science centres), DSGA Delhi, and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram.

The preprint paper published in MedRxiv titled 'Immune profile and responses of a novel Dengue DNA vaccine encoding EDIII-NS1 consensus design based on Indo-African sequences' aims to address key problems existing while developing a vaccine for dengue.

Prof Krishna said this was the team's third Indo-African manuscript in 2021. The vaccine challenges range all the way from innovation, immunity, clinical trials, safety, and regulation to manufacturing.

He said, "There was an urgent need for more collaborations, to bring teams across India to work together, including the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology and NIMHANS. This culture is important." While it is in the public domain with their existing infrastructure built over decades and support systems, the specific project was supported by Narayana Murthy, the co-founder of Infosys.

EXPRESS READ

Pvt welfare home sealed as girls used as labourers

Pudukkottai: The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on Sunday sealed a private home for girls in Pudukkottai after it was found that the owners of the home were using the children for construction and farm work. Based on a tip-off, CWC officials inspected the private home near Kudumiyanmalai on Sunday morning, and conducted an inquiry with seven girls there. "During the inquiry, we learnt that the caretakers used the children as labourers. All the children have been rescued, and further action will be taken," said a CWC official. All the girls at the home were below the age of 15, and studied at the nearby high school. ENS

Heavy rain likely in Kerala for three days

T'Puram: Many districts Kerala are likely to experience heavy showers for the next three days under the influence of a low pressure area that would be formed over the Arabian Sea. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued orange alert in various districts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall. An IMD bulletin said a cyclonic circulation lies over southeast Arabian Sea off the Kerala coast. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over east central and adjoining northeast Arabian Sea during the next 48 hours. ENS

TTD asks doctors to extend voluntary service

Tirupati: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has invited paediatric cardio thoracic surgeons and child specialists from all the recognised children's hospitals across the country to render voluntary service at the new Sri Padmavati Children Heart Centre (Paediatric Hospital), which is coming up shortly at the BIRRD complex in Tirupati. In a statement released on Sunday, doctors professing Hinduism with 15 years experience are being sought to perform the heart surgeries and related services to the new born infants under Sri Venkateswara Pranadana Trust of TTD. ENS

DRDO set long-range land attack cruise missile test

HEMANT KUMAR ROUT
@ Bhubaneswar

THE Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is all set for an experimental test of India's first long range land attack cruise missile from a defence facility off Odisha coast next week.

The missile, also dubbed as Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile, a derivative of Nirbhay, will be flight-tested with indigenously developed engine, propulsion and navigation systems. Preparations are underway at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) for the test. Defence sources said an area warning has already been issued for the launch of an experimental flight vehicle over the Bay of Bengal between October 6 and 8.

"If things go as per plan, the missile will be test-fired on Wednesday. As the missile is expected to travel more than 700 km, the tracking systems have already been positioned to capture data," said the sources.

PROMISED JOBS, BETTER LIFE NEVER CAME, SAY FORMER NAXALS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I was around 20 when I was arrested, and rewards had been announced in my name. While spending nearly eight years in prison, I finished my second-year graduation in journalism. After I was set free in 2012, I thought I would do some justice to my ideologies that were grilled into me since my teenage years. We were promised a whole lot of things, including a decent life with respect," says Nagaraj, explaining the situation now at the once Naxal-prone villages, including his.

With the government not keeping up its promises, Nagaraj now says, "If my presence is necessary in the (Naxal) movement, I am ready to go even now."

Several of them who feel betrayed by the government think that they could get back to Naxalism or join the rebel 'group' if such a situation arises.

"Though we have suffered for being in the movement, we are not ready to let go of our ideologies. Several of us are trying to fight the system by being in the system. We have become members of panchayats and formed unions. But nothing is going right. Our politicians and the government have not changed. We have been taught to give respect and take respect. But at the same time, we know when to revolt, too, and we are ready to do that if the situation demands. We will teach our children the same," says Nagaraj.

Some of them are still battling the Naxal label attached to them. For instance, Shriram, who is in his late 40s, often knocks on the doors of landlords requesting them for a job. But many times, he says, he has been shown the door as he continues to be seen as a Naxalite.

He says he even approached the solar panel company to give him a security or cleaning job, but the 'label' prevented it, though he has been cleared of all the 13 cases filed against him.

Villagers at Vallur in Pavagada taluk of Tumakuru district | ASHISHKRISHNA H P

From BJP to Congress to JDS, all party ministers have come here to grab headlines. It has been more than 15 years now since the attack and we have only requests to show the media which don't even make headlines sometimes — Nagaraj, former naxal

"It's just 4 km from my house to the nearest solar panel place. I am ready to take up work as a security guard or cleaner. But I am still struggling," Shriram, a resident of BK Halli, says.

He was in his teens when he joined the Naxal movement after his father lost a piece of land to a landlord who had given him a loan. A few more people had suffered a similar fate. "This made me angry and helpless, and I joined the Naxal movement," he says. He was in the team with Muthyalappa between 1994 and 2004. In between, he was in jail for some time.

When SM Krishna was the chief minister in 2004, many from his fraternity were called and given ration cards.

"They declared us 'ex-Naxalites' and assured us loans, so that we could make a living away from Naxal activities. But it has been more than 17 years. Many governments have come and gone. But nothing has been done!" he says.

While there are hundreds of landless people in the five villages surrounding the solar park who are waiting for the government to provide them jobs, families of ex-Naxalites too are waiting for not only basic amenities and jobs at the solar park, which they claim is the only way to make a living, but are also seeking help from banks to provide them loans to set up shops, develop their land and do some business.

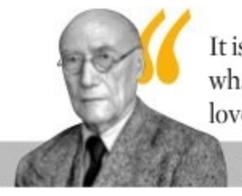
"Every new minister visits our villages. Our villages have a history, you see. From BJP to Congress to JDS, all party ministers have come here to grab headlines. It has been more than 15 years now since the attack and we have only requests to show the media which don't even make headlines sometimes. We are eagerly waiting for some good roads to our villages, pucca houses to live in and jobs to work and earn," says Nagaraj.

A retired senior police officer, who played a major role in the arrest of some of these Naxalites, says exploitative and unfair practices pushed many of these then young men and women towards violence, and extreme despair led them to believe that armed struggle alone can right the wrongs perpetrated against them.

"Feudal systems and caste hierarchies, which play out in Pavagada's villages, are the reason why so many young people joined the Naxal movement in the 1990s. After the brutal attack in 2005, the government spoke big and promised development, but it hasn't delivered. The same inequity that made them join the Naxals still persists, and if the government does not want a repeat, it should ensure that the taluk's residents are provided with all the basic amenities. We need to be aware that many of them still believe in Naxal ideologies and that can turn into a rage," he warns.

(The series concludes)

EDITORIAL



"It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not" — Andre Gide

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

ROBUST DIPLOMACY TO STARE DOWN UK OVER VAX APARTHEID

The tit-for-tat mandatory quarantine imposed on Britons beginning Monday mirrors the UK's regulations to manage arrivals from various countries, including India, from the same day. It includes a pre-boarding RT-PCR test, a Covid test upon landing at the airport and a 10-day mandatory home quarantine with another corona test thrown in on the eighth day. In other words, fully inoculated visitors will be treated as unvaccinated. That nations must take all possible steps to prevent another full-blown lockdown is a given. The number of Covid-positive cases at present in the UK is higher than that in India. But resistance within Britain to some kind of vaccine passport at places of public gathering is so high that it was forced to put it off for now. Yet, it has no qualms in making life difficult for even double-jabbed visitors from select nations like India.

Discrimination is written all over the UK regulation, especially with regard to India, as both use the same vaccine candidate. It was developed by Oxford University along with AstraZeneca and licenced to the Serum Institute of India for mass production. Around 90% of all jabs in India are from Serum's Covishield. While the UK began by pointing at problems with Covishield, it changed the goalpost to issues with vaccination certificates, only to do another somersault saying the certification was technically fine. Which meant it had no leg to stand on, yet the proposed quarantine was not nixed. If apartheid had a Covid face, this was it. UNGA head Abdulla Shahid took Covishield; would he also be subjected to quarantine in the UK?

Multiple factors were at play as Delhi decided to stare down the former world power. For example, Britain has been considerably weakened after its divorce from the EU. And India has a reputation to protect because it is seen as the pharmacy of the world. The UK playing police in India's backyard, joining the US and Australia to create an Indo-Pacific security mechanism against China, would have been another pain point. For, it downgraded the Quad of which India, the US, Japan and Australia are members. One hopes muscular diplomacy is pursued till the end, sending an unequivocal message that messing around with India will have consequences.

ABORTION AMENDMENT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act of 2021 recently came into force. The long-awaited amendment, passed earlier this year, raises the upper limit of abortions to 24 weeks from 20 for some categories of women, including survivors of rape. Further, there is no upper limit to terminate a pregnancy in cases of foetal anomalies if a medical board, to be set up by states and Union Territories, clears it.

The amendment is a step in the right direction to ensure more women have access to safe abortions. It comes in the 50th year since the MTP Act was first passed and in the backdrop of developments in the US, where reproductive rights of women are being actively eroded after a Texas law found a way around the landmark Roe V Wade case that guaranteed abortion access to women.

However, the amendment does not go far enough. The law is not inclusive of non-binary or trans persons who may be pregnant and seek an abortion. Significantly, the decision to terminate a pregnancy still does not rest with the woman alone. Rather, it is the doctor—two, if the gestation period is between 20 and 24 weeks—who has the final say in whether or not a woman may have an abortion. This is of grave concern as doctors have been known to charge exorbitant fees for the procedure (as per the National Family Health Survey 2015-16, 52% of abortions were done in private hospitals), deny access to the service on moral grounds or send the woman or child to the courts even if the service can be legally provided. According to NFHS data, 26% of abortions were claimed to have been performed by the woman herself at home. While the amendment to the law is no doubt welcome, it will be meaningless without commensurate efforts to educate medical professionals on the legal rights of persons in need of abortions. Similarly, states should look at widening access to safe abortions as a way to reduce maternal mortality rates. The law should also not be a landmark by itself, but rather a step towards eventually allowing women the right to decide for themselves whether or not to continue with a pregnancy.

With the Quad, India hoped its traditional sphere of influence in South Asia would be recognised and that it could count on military help to fend off China. That did not happen

WHAT IS THERE IN THE QUAD FOR INDIA?

N SATHIYA MOORTHY
Distinguished Fellow & Head-Chennai Initiative, Observer Research Foundation

SOUMYADIP SINHA

The irony is striking. They are all supposed to be united as 'liberal democracies' against the Chinese dragon, which is ever-growing in their reckoning. Yet, it is China that has reasons to laugh and make merry. For on the sidelines, Western allies in and out of NATO are looking to outsmart one another to get counted as the existing or emerging leader of the grouping that is still in the making.

No other construct explains the minor diplomatic imbroglio kicked up by France after the US, UK and Australia announced the AUKUS, describing it as a military alliance. Unlike the Quad, whose various elements were constructed and/or de-constructed in public and more like the India-US defence pact of 2005, AUKUS has surprised the world due to the secrecy involved in its formation and announcement. When China, as the common target, has all the time to readjust itself to yet another emerging reality, it is the allies of the AUKUS that feel peeved and upset.

The question is if the three nations could have created the AUKUS without hurting France, a traditional European power and trans-Atlantic NATO partner of two among the three AUKUS nations barring Australia. The question also arises if the new grouping was created to confer greater strategic legitimacy to the UK post-Brexit, or as a cover for the US to share nuclear submarine technology with Quad member Australia, accompanied by the cancellation of the latter's $66-billion French deal for conventional submarines.

The move is also a clear message that the US is not afraid of what Putin keeps packaging as a 'resurgent' Russia nor the risk of weakening, if not breaking, the NATO through such an unprecedented sleight of hand that the US is known for. Washington had earlier reserved such treatment, yes, for Russia, when the US secretly signed a defence pact with India in 2005.

In a way, that move was a return compliment for the forgotten Indo-Soviet defence cooperation agreement in August 1971, which served a critical purpose during the historic Bangladesh War later that year. On the occasion, the US was backing Islamabad against New Delhi and was ready to deploy the Seventh Fleet carrier group to try and change the course of the war—but only after the proverbial last minute.

Post-AUKUS statements from Team India could at best hope to reaffirm for the majority of Indians that they had nothing to fear from the new alliance. They knew it already and by instinct. But it could not cover up New Delhi's surprise, if not shock, at not being taken into confidence, even remotely, on the emerging AUKUS deal. For India, this alone has revived fading memories of the eternal strategic question: Is the US a trustworthy and strategic ally like the Soviet Union used to be?

The US knows that the ruling class and the government in any democracy cannot manage public opinion after a point. In this case, Washington may have felt elated and confident at being able to 'manage' the political class in India through the post-Cold War era much better than before. But that seems to have made the US overconfident to be seen as riding roughshod over the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is the single most popular leader in the country in more than a quarter of a century.

In an unprecedented way, Modi and his government made, through surgical strikes, foreign and security policy a part of the nation's electoral agenda. Maybe it has not attracted as much negativity as the Bofors gun deal did for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress leadership in the elections of 1989, but with surgical strikes etc., Modi has made security policy and strategic alliance a part of the electoral narrative in the country, such that it will be difficult for him to dismount at will.

For observers of the Indian strategic scene, the secrecy surrounding the AUKUS deal should come as no great surprise. Exactly a year earlier, in September 2020, the US had signed a defence cooperation treaty with India's neighbour, the Maldives. ... If such a deal had been struck by the Soviet regime, it would have been only at the behest of India

For observers of the Indian strategic scene, the secrecy surrounding the AUKUS deal should come as no great surprise. Exactly a year earlier, in September 2020, the US had signed a defence cooperation treaty with India's neighbour, the Maldives. It was reportedly done without taking New Delhi into confidence. If such a deal had been struck by the Soviet regime, it would have been only at the behest of India. That is the level of confidence Indians still have for Moscow when compared to Washington. It is another matter that the only time when the Soviet Union failed to consult India or abide by post-facto Indian indications, it had got dismembered in the quicksands of Afghanistan.

It might not have been as bad for the US in Afghanistan; yet, the final drawdown and the bloodless Taliban takeover does bring back to memory the unilateral Indian offer of then Prime Minister Vajpayee for the US to operate out of New Delhi to target Osama bin Laden and Al Qaida. They preferred Pakistan, as always, and the results are there for the whole world to see.

It was not the first time, either. As coincidence would have it, it was again on the Maldives that the US had begun testing New Delhi's proverbial 'Indian patience' as it negotiated a defence pact with the short-lived Waheed government in Male (2012-13), again behind New Delhi's back. Earlier, the US had reportedly signed the more basic ACSA (Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement) with the Maldives, taking a similar route.

The Manmohan Singh government was at the helm in New Delhi, on both occasions. If America's Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the Maldives did not go through in 2013, it was not directly due to India feeling betrayed; rather it was mostly because of the internal dynamics of the Maldivian domestic politics of the time.

The US and its Quad allies had made post-Cold War India feel inadequate as a regional power that they had independently begun making inroads into South Asia, which the world had regarded and respected as our traditional sphere of influence. With the Quad, India and Indians hoped all of it would stop and that New Delhi could also count on a large military alliance to fend off China.

The reality was that the Quad would have worked for India only in the Indian Ocean and not where the Indian security concerns mattered the most—along the long land borders with China and Pakistan, and up north and far away from the seas, with the Taliban.

Now, the AUKUS and the accompanying American declaration/reiteration that Quad is not a military alliance comes in contrast to what Indians had assumed it to be. After all, India has signed multiple foundational agreements with the US, supposedly for that purpose. All of it has since caused more than eyes to rise, foreheads to frown and brains to strain, all of them Indian.

(sathiyam54@nsathiyamoorthy.com)

COVID VACCINATION REVEALS GLOBAL FAULT LINES

DR CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA
Physician-epidemiologist, and public policy and health systems expert

The Covid-19 vaccine has been in the news and always been seen as a ray of hope since the beginning of the pandemic. However, even before the first Covid vaccine was approved in any part of the world, the challenge of 'vaccine nationalism' was identified, in which many affluent nations secured far more vaccine doses for their population than needed. Some went up to secure up to five times more than what their population needed. It was criticised but that did not stop the rich nations.

Fortunately, the vaccine scientists have helped us fight some challenges and world over, the success of Covid inoculation research and development resulted in nearly 20 vaccines having received emergency use authorisation in 20 months of the pandemic. Yet, about 80% of the 580 crore Covid vaccines administered worldwide as of mid-September are in high- and upper-middle-income countries. Only 0.5% of the total Covid vaccines have reached low-income countries, though the availability of vaccines is equally important for each nation. Most rich countries have given two doses to up to 80% of the population and are considering third and fourth shots, while in many nations, barely 10% of the population has received one shot. This is a clear example of the blatant 'vaccine inequity'. The global collaboration of COVAX, co-led by WHO, CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) and Gavi, the vaccine alliance, has failed to get the jabs it needed. In the past few months, 'vaccine nationalism' and 'vaccine inequity' show that no matter how much rich countries and the global community talk about cooperation, their claims are hollow and this cycle doesn't seem to end.

There is a new episode being added to this saga, with travel and vaccination guidelines recently issued by the UK. According to these British travel guidelines, from October 4, citizens of many countries who have completed their full vaccination in their nation will have to undergo a mandatory 10-day quarantine in the UK along with regular RT-PCR tests. This also includes those people who have received two shots of Covishield (Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India) in India; they will be subjected to all the restrictions that apply to unvaccinated persons. It has to be noted that Covishield is scientifically similar to the vaccine being used in the UK with the only difference being that it is manufactured in India.

Britain's move is just a sequel to the series of errors that the world community continues to make with regard to Covid vaccination. Otherwise, how can it be explained that the vaccines Britain is providing in its own country are not recognised for the citizens of other nations? Britain sent the Oxford-AZ vaccines to Kenya, but if people from the African nation who have received the vaccine provided by the UK visit Britain, they will be considered unvaccinated. Many countries including India protested and termed the new UK travel policy 'discriminatory'. Two days later, the UK government said that Covishield is valid but the issue is with the vaccine certificate. The matter is not completely resolved yet, though a solution to this will emerge. However, this incident indicates the need for serious brainstorming on the mistakes being made by the world community in battling the pandemic.

Vaccine nationalism and discrimination show that no matter how much rich countries and the global community talk about cooperation, the reality is different. ... The announcement made by the Government of India that some Covid vaccines will be exported from mid-October is commendable. If countries do not cooperate with each other during a pandemic, then when will they?

In addition, it is a time of self-reflection for India as well. A lot of information related to Covid vaccine research and use is not easily available and documented. This originates in the fact that the health data recording and reporting system in India are not taken seriously and given due importance. Else, why should the data of a vaccine clinical trial take months to be synthesised? We know that would be needed and things should be planned in advance. Clearly, India seems to be slow in collecting and using data in the health sector. It can be said that if the process of collecting data had been strengthened, then perhaps the issue of approval of the vaccines would have reached WHO earlier than it has happened and a decision on emergency use listing by the global body could have happened. India is facing a situation where on the one hand, Covaxin is not recognised by WHO, while on the other hand, Covishield is facing restrictions in many countries. There is no doubt that India has the capability to do better than this. If this situation continues for a long time, then public enthusiasm about vaccines may be weakened, which has to be avoided at all costs.

'Vaccine nationalism', 'vaccine discrimination' and 'vaccine inequity' are emerging as some of the major challenges in the Covid pandemic. These are not the only ones. On many fronts where solidarity and collaboration are needed, many countries have disappointed the global community. There is still some time. The countries need to share vaccines with the rest of the world and collaborate with COVAX. In this direction, the announcement made by the Government of India that some Covid vaccines will be exported from mid-October is commendable. If countries do not cooperate with each other during the pandemic, then when will they? Time is short but the global community has yet another chance. The coming generation will assess all our steps.

(Dr Lahariya is the co-author of 'Till We Win: India's Fight Against The Covid-19 Pandemic')
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

UK's colonial mindset

Britain, it seems, still holds a colonial mindset towards India as can be seen from its unjustified and unexplainable policy decision of refusing to recognise Indian vaccine certificates. It was an unearned insult and therefore the retaliatory step taken by us was necessary.
A Raveendranath, Aranmula

China move to worsen ties

This is with reference to *China has upped PLA troops along LAC: Army Chief* (Oct 3). Chinese deployment of troops in large numbers across Eastern Ladakh is disheartening. Any confrontation between the two nations at this time is bound to worsen ties, which have already deteriorated after last year's face-off. The countries should engage in talks before the situation becomes grim.
M Rishidev, Dindigul

End corporal punishments

It is tragic that a teacher was punished with just one-year imprisonment for blinding an eight-year-old by throwing a pen at him (*15 years after, teacher who damaged boy's eye by throwing pen handed one-year jail sentence*, Oct 2). The student is an adult of 24 years now with one eye blinded and had to undergo the pains of repeated surgeries. There was another piece of news that said 20 students were beaten for coming late (*Video of headmistress caning students goes viral*, Oct 2). There are specific rulings from our courts banning corporal punishments. Yet they continue unabated. Those teachers who are caught red-handed should be given exemplary punishment.
Dr M Haneef, Kottayam

Change in Cong

This is with reference to *A Kanhaiya opportunity for the Congress* (Oct 3). The Congress, stuck in a deep mess in Punjab, has been going to town celebrating its new acquisitions. How far the arrival of the young leaders impacts the party and how they would be able to leverage their positions remains to be seen. But a salutary aspect as far as these newcomers are concerned is that they might not be too willing to subscribe to the sycophantic culture ingrained in the Congress party leaders and cadre.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Worry for Team India

It pains one to see five-time IPL champion Mumbai Indians struggling in this year's tournament, and it is highly unlikely that they would make the playoffs. While there is nothing wrong with their bowling, it is the top and middle-order batting that have largely let them down in every game so far. What is even more worrying is that ahead of the T20 World Cup, the team's three star batters, who are also part of India's batting line-up, are woefully short of runs.
R Sivakumar, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Derek O'Brien @derekobrienmp

Less than 2 out of every 10 Indians have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Three months to go in 2021, what percentage we will reach by Dec 31?

Manish Tewari @ManishTewari

Chinese are not only building up in Ladakh. 38 Chinese transgressions into Taiwan's Air Defence zone in past 48 hours. We are new Asian hegemons.

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra

Mamata's vote share 71.9% vs BJP vote share at 22.2%. Won in all 8 wards including Guj dominated ward. BJP chanakyas go back to drawing board.

Agitated farmers take to streets after protesters were run over by SUVs in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday | PTI

Lakhimpur Kheri: Oppn demands judicial probe

Parties seek Union minister's sacking; non-BJP leaders to visit spot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

OPPOSITION parties on Sunday hit out at the BJP and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored judicial probe into Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which eight people, including four farmers, died after two SUVs allegedly ran over protesters.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Rashtriya Lok Dal were among the parties that condemned the attack on farmers while demanding the probe and strict action against the accused.

Some parties, including the Congress, also demanded immediate sacking of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, following Samyukt Kisan Morcha's allegation that his son was travelling in one of the vehicles involved in the incident. Mishra, however, claimed that his son nor he was present at the site when the incident occurred.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said a delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs will visit the affected families on October 4.

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi too condemned the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said he will visit Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh on Monday. Baghel, who has been made senior observer by the Congress for the UP assembly polls scheduled next year, tweeted in Hindi that he, as a farmer, understood their pain and would be visiting Lakhimpur to express solidarity.

Hitting out at the BJP, the Left parties on Sunday said such "barbarity" will not stop the farmers' movement.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait left for Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday along with his several supporters following reports of violence there during a farmers' protest.

With PTI inputs

Procurement delay a deliberate plan: Surjewala

New Delhi: AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday said, "The delay in paddy procurement is a move to compel the farmers to sell crops at throwaway prices instead of selling on MSP during government procurement." This is the first time in history that the date of procurement is being extended citing a reason of high moisture in the paddy crop now." Quoting details, he said that the government procurement of paddy in Punjab-Haryana and other states of north India was to start from September 25, but it was extended to October 1.

'EXPANSIONIST' TRINAMOOL HAS ITS TASK CUT OUT

PRANAB MONDAL, PRASANTA MAZUMDAR & SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
@ Kolkata/ Guwahati/ Mumbai

Nothwithstanding Luizinho Faleiro's entry, TMC will find it tough to make headway in Goa's packed political space

EVER since its triumph in the West Bengal assembly elections five months ago, the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been on a roll. Having pulled off a spectacular victory against the BJP, with a wheelchair-bound 'Didi' credited for single-handedly stopping the saffron party juggernaut, the TMC's ambitions soared and the party, which so far did not have a mass base outside Bengal, is now aggressively trying to expand its footprints in other states. To start with, the party has plans to spread its wings in the Northeast and in smaller states like Goa.

"Despite being a regional party, we are now a successful anti-BJP force nationally. Our aim is to consolidate the anti-BJP vote in our favour as people of other states have realised that the TMC is the only party which can challenge or derail BJP-led governments. The Congress is not in a position to overthrow the BJP in the Northeastern states," said a senior TMC leader.

As a first step toward achieving this goal, the Trinamool has been making sustained efforts to woo prominent leaders from other states to its fold. The party inducted former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro a few days ago while Congress women wing chief Sushmita Dev had joined last month.

But the big question is, whether netting these leaders help will help the TMC capture the anti-BJP vote base in other states? Asked how the party will combat the BJP without a basic organisational set-up in these states, a TMC leader said, "Before coming to power in Bengal, our legislative strength was only 30. In 2011, we bagged 184 seats out of 294 and derailed the Left Front's 34-year rule without having much organisational structure in place. People voted against the CPI(M) and in favour of us. Similarly, in the states like Tripura and Goa, the electorate will support us after our party's thumping majority in Bengal against the strong saffron storm. Besides, we will build up our organisation in these states before the assembly polls," the leader said.

Sushmita Dev said "Mamata didi" is now a force to reckon with and is playing a bigger role in national politics. "We will put up a fight (against the BJP) wherever we think it is doable," she said.

Northeast

After proving that her home state remains her impregnable stronghold, Mamata is now eying the Bengali-majority Tripura. Although the party does not have an organised cadre in the state, it's hoping to build base by poaching from the Congress and the BJP such leaders who command popular support.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb is unpopular within the party with the likes of former health minister Sudip Roy Barman making no secret of their hostility to him. Burman, who had joined the BJP ahead of the 2018 state elections, was reported to be in touch with the TMC and if he joins the party, he could transfer a sizeable vote share to the TMC.

Sushmita Dev, whom the TMC nominated to the Rajya Sabha soon after bring her into the party, is virtually camping in Tripura with that goal in mind. "The mood of the nation is changing against the BJP. Their leaders are looking for an alternative. We are also identifying people and trying to convince them to come to our party," she said. "We have also shortlisted people who we want to see in our organisation. That process is on. The Tripura elections are in 2023. We have time," she said.

Many Congress leaders like Subal Bhowmik, Prakash Das, Tapan Dutta, Panna Deb and Baptu Chakraborty quit the party and joined the TMC since July.

> **The mood of the nation is changing against the BJP. Their leaders are looking for an alternative. We are also identifying people and trying to convince them to come to our party** —Sushmita Dev, TMC MP

In Meghalaya, where the Congress is troubled by infighting, former CM Mukul Sangma had last month met the TMC leadership fuelling speculations he might defect to the party along with about a dozen of the 17 Congress MLAs in the state.

Goa

The TMC may find it tougher to get a foothold in the state. Sumi Naik, a senior journalist based in Goa said that the state's political space is already crowded. "There is no natural traction to TMC in Goa... Besides, it has very limited time to expand the party base. Faleiro can win one or two seats for the party at best," Naik said.

CM Pramod Sawant sought to dismiss new political entrants like the TMC and AAP as 'poll-season tourists'. "We will welcome these political parties who are coming ahead of state polls. We are sure they will enjoy the Goa's hospitality and will go back," Sawant said.

Nevertheless, the TMC has inducted several leaders such as Elvis Gomes and Alvito D'Cunha. Faleiro said the party hopes to ride on 'women power', who constitute over 40 per cent voters in the state.

MEDICAL

All-India merit list for NEET PG likely by end of week

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE merit list for the all-India counselling for 50% all-India quota in the NEET PG is set to be released by the end of the next week, sources associated with the Director General of Health Services said.

Results and score cards were declared on September 28.

Officials said that while most states will prepare their own merit list for admission on the basis of the NEET PG merit list and the all-India ranks, the national list will be released separately after which the counselling for admission for all-India seats will be conducted by the Medical Counselling Committee under the DGHS.

"We are hoping to release the national list between October 8 and 10," said a senior official in the Union education ministry.

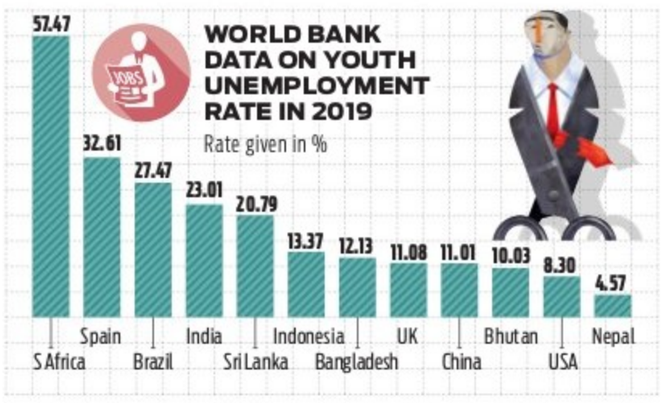
The NEET PG state counselling will be held under the aegis of the respective counselling authorities of the states and all eligible candidates who will apply for state counselling will be included in the respective state merit list.

This year, a little over 1.6 lakh doctors appeared in NEET PG for admission into MS, MD and diploma seats in medical colleges. As per rules, while under the all-India quota, admissions are offered in 50 % seats in government colleges of all states except J&K, 100 % seats of central universities, 100 % seats of deemed universities and 50 % seats of colleges under Employee State Insurance Corporation.

The NEET PG examination saw an unprecedented delay of nearly eight months due to the massive second wave of Covid as the government decided to deploy final-year MBBS students and junior residents for providing services.

Youth unemployment was high even in pre-Covid years: World Bank data

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi



YOUTH unemployment in India may have been really high, even before the Covid pandemic struck, it has emerged.

With a little over 23% unemployment rate, India was 43rd among 181 countries which were rated by the World Bank in 2019, the latest year for which this rating and data is available. In 2014, when the Narendra Modi government stormed into power, the youth unemployment rate was 21.99% and it was 55th highest rate of the 181 surveyed nations.

The World Bank data shows that South Africa had the highest youth unemployment rate at 57.47 % while Cambodia fared the best with just 0.37 %. Among India's neighbours, Sri Lanka reported about 20.8% while Bangladesh performed much better at nearly 12%. Nepal and Bhutan logged 20.79% and 10.03%.

"Youth unemployment in the world... It's baffling how India got to where it is, even before the pandemic. Whoever forms the next government must treat this as the number one priority," tweeted Kaushik Basu, former chief economist of the World Bank.

Basu's warning comes in the backdrop of a recent Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's data which showed that in August, India's unemployment rate stood at 8.32%, worse than July's 6.96%, but nearly similar to the rates recorded in August last year and in August 2019, which were at 8.35% and 8.19%, respectively.

The report showed that more than 15 lakh workers in formal and informal sectors lost jobs , reversing some of the gains made in the previous month, as the unemployment rate shot up and suggesting that problems may be far from over.

EXPRESS READ

Cow dung to light Chhattisgarh villages

Raipur: Chhattisgarh villages and rural industrial parks will now be illuminated by the electricity generated from cattle dung. An ambitious project will soon be spread across the state through Gauthans that will be the unit to produce power from cow-dung. CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated three such power generation units installed at Rakhi in Bemetara district, Sikola in Durg and Bancharoda in Raipur district.

Rahul meets party's Meghalaya leaders

Shillong: The Congress appears to have averted a crisis in its Meghalaya unit ahead of bypolls in three Assembly seats after Rahul Gandhi met former chief minister Mukul Sangma and the party's state president Vincent H Pala on Sunday. Sangma and Pala had not been getting along well ever since the latter was appointed the new Meghalaya unit chief of the party.

Unmoved Sidhu demands scalps of DGP, top lawyer

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB Congress President Navjot Singh Sidhu stuck to his guns in seeking the removal of the DGP and the Advocate General, saying anything otherwise will leave the party with no face.

Hours later, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi came out with a statement that the new DGP would be appointed as per the law. The state government has already forwarded the panel of all senior police officers with 30 years of experience to the Centre, he added.

Seemingly unhappy over his demands being unmet, Sidhu had earlier plunged the Congress into chaos by announcing his resignation. Later, he had met Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi following which it was decided to set up a coordination panel for prior consultation on all major decisions.

"Demand for Justice in Sacrilege cases and for arrest of main culprits behind the drug trade brought our Govt in 2017 & Due to his failure, People removed the last CM. Now, AG/ DG appointments rub salt on wounds of victims, they must be replaced or we will have No face (sic)," the cricketer-turned-politican tweeted on Sunday.

Political observers say Sidhu is giving clear indications that with few months left for the state assembly elections, he is unwilling to compromise on his stand on the issues of sacrilege and drug trade.

The Congress brass, meanwhile, appears to be keen on retaining him as the state unit chief despite strong opposition from some quarters within the party.

Faced with a revolt, Channi said there would not be any laxity in action against those involved in the cases of desecration. "There is not going to be any laxity against those who indulged in the desecration of the Guru (Granth Sahib). Legs may be severed but will not falter," the chief minister said.

Jolt to Cong in MP bastion as ex-minister, son join BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

FOUR WEEKS before the October 30 parliamentary and assembly bypolls in Madhya Pradesh, Congress leader Sulochana Rawat and her son Vishal joined the BJP on Saturday late night.

The exits are a major setback to the Congress's prospects in Jobat-ST constituency, which is among the three Assembly seats up for bypoll on October 30. Sulochana, who was a MoS in the Digvijaya Singh Congress government, had won Jobat in 1998 and 2008. Vishal had lost from the same seat in 2013 and came third in 2018.

The seat in Alirajpur district was won by the Congress 11 out of the 15 times, since 1951. The Rawat family won 9 times alone.

The mother-son duo attributed tribal development and welfare centric announcements by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government to have prompted their switchover to BJP. But sources in Alirajpur district said Congress district chief Mahesh Patel (whose brother Mukesh is a Congress MLA) is the frontrunner for Congress ticket from Jobat. He was opposed to Sulochana or her son being fielded there and would have even fielded a rebel candidate, they said.

'Air chief should focus on indigenous projects'

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE new chief of Indian Air Force (IAF) Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari should focus on the indigenous projects and leading the air force to meet the challenges of drone, assert security experts.

Chaudhari took over the command from RKS Bhadauria on October 1.

Strategic Affairs expert Air Commodore Prashant Dixit (retd) believes that keeping focus towards make in India, the chief will have to "push" the industry, public and private that are executing various projects. "Delay has been plaguing the projects," says Air Commodore Dixit.

He adds: "Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been extended ₹45,696 crore contract for 73 LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighter aircraft and 10 LCA Tejas Mk-1 Trainer aircraft which need to be delivered in time. Also, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) will require handholding."

"The IAF is down to 30 operational squadrons against the sanctioned 42 squadrons. It needs mid-air refuellers and airborne early warning and control system," says Dixit.

The day Air Chief Chaudhari assumed the charge of chief, he outlined, "enhancement of operational capability" to protect "nation's sovereignty and integrity at any cost."

With the ongoing standoff in Eastern Ladakh, the IAF has been playing a crucial role. And, the deployment and change in the format of war is pushing the country to strengthen the other realms of the force like Unmanned Combat and Space.

"We are heading towards a major role of the missiles and drones, both armed and unarmed. Though we have done well in missiles and helicopters, we are lagging in drone systems which are going to play a significant part of the future of air warfare," says a senior IAF officer on the condition of anonymity.

Also, the new air chief will be overseeing the Defence Space Agency (DSA), set up in May 2019, in its initiative to get fully operational. Comprising members from the Army, Navy and Air Force, the DSA is envisage to gradually take over space-related capabilities of the three armed forces.

Meanwhile, Air Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik on Sunday assumed charge as chief of Eastern Air Command.

Space significance

The significance of space was highlighted during the first in-person meeting of the Quad group in Washington on September 24. India is deepening its space ties with the US, Japan and Australia — the other three member nations of the group.

GI TAG

A variety of rice widely grown in Maharashtra's Palghar district was given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Wada Kolam, also known as Zini or Jhini rice, is a traditional variety grown in Wada tehsil of Palghar.

2 HELD IN THANE FOR IPL BETTING

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	35	24	Mumbai	31	26
Bhopal	30	23	Panaji	33	25
Jaipur	34	24	Patna	29	25
Amritsar	33	24	Lucknow	35	24
Chennai	34	26	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	28	20
Srinagar	27	12	Chandigarh	34	24

Aryan Khan (23) is the eldest son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and his wife, Gauri Khan. He is the gold medalist in 6th national taekwondo junior championship

Arbaz Seth Merchant is a close friend of Aryan Khan and Suhana Khan, sister of Aryan Khan. His Instagram handle is followed by several Bollywood star kids

PTI

Munmun Dhamecha is reportedly a 23-year-old model from Mumbai. The others detained by the NCB are Mohak Jaswal, Nupur Sarika and Gomit Chopra

SHAH RUKH SON, 7 OTHERS HELD OVER DRUG CRUISE

NCB sleuths nab them from a ship; three sent to one-day custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

BOLLYWOOD superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and seven others were arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in connection with the seizure of drugs on board a cruise ship on Saturday night.

Besides Aryan Khan, the other arrested persons were identified as Munmun Dhamecha, Arbaaz Merchant, Ismeet Singh, Mohak Jaswal, Gomit Chopra, Nupur Sarika, and Vikrant Chhokar, an NCB official said.

The NCB has booked them under sections 20 (b), 27, 28 & 29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The NCB Mumbai conducted a raid on the Cordelia Cruise on the way from Mumbai to Goa on Saturday. A total of eight persons were arrested in connection with the seizure of 13 grams of cocaine, five gms of MD (mephedrone), 21 grams of charas, 22 pills of MDMA (ecstasy) and ₹1,33,000 at the International Cruise Terminal, Mumbai. After getting a tip-off about the rave party, 22 officials of the NCB booked tickets as normal passengers on a cruise by paying ₹80,000 per passenger. The officials entered the cruise in plain clothes. They conducted the raid and took the video of those in possession of drugs.

Khan, Dhamecha, and Merchant were produced before a holiday court here earlier on Sunday which remanded them in NCB custody for one day. All the eight accused will be produced before the court again on Monday after their medical examination.

NCB special prosecutor advocate Advait Sethna sought police custody for two days, while Khan's lawyer appealed for one day's custody. "Your honour may take me (Aryan) in custody and remand me for one-day so that whatever investigation needs to be done. Because I am (Aryan) neither found in possession nor is there an allegation of consumption. None of the sections attracts the embargo under sec 37 of the NDPS," Khan's lawyer Satish Maneshind submitted on behalf of Aryan.

Meanwhile, the cruise company said it had nothing to do with this incident. "Cordelia Cruises had chartered its ship for a private event to a Delhi-based company," the company said in a statement.

> **I am (Aryan) neither found in possession nor is there an allegation of consumption. None of the sections attracts the embargo under Section 37 of the NDPS Act** — Satish Maneshinde, Aryan Khan's counsel

RECENT BUSTING OF RAVE PARTIES

Police in Guwahati arrested 18 people with banned drugs, including cocaine and opium, after busting a rave party on August 14, 2021. The party started at a businessman's apartment at Khaguli neighboourhood in the city. One reveller was also shot in the leg by the police during an attempt to escape the scene

Party busted at an Igatpuri villa in Maharashtra's Nashik. A former Bigg Boss contestant among 25 people arrested with hookahs and other drugs in June 2021. They were let off on bail in August

Over 100 people were arrested from a rave party in Karnataka's Hassan. Vehicles with emergency duty stickers and drugs like LSD and MDMA were seized from the location during the second Covid wave in April 2021

MDMA seized from a rave party in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore in May 2019. At least 163 people, including 140 from Kerala and a Russian national, were arrested. Drugs, including cocaine, were seized and this was the first-ever haul of MDMA from Coimbatore

Bollywood stars high-paying clients to D-Company's drug cartel, say officials

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

IT'S no secret anymore that Mumbai's drug cartel is being peddled by the D-Company and that most of the Bollywood stars and strugglers are its high-paying clients.

"The D-company helmed by underworld Don Dawood Ibrahim suspected to be based in Pakistan runs this lucrative business. The D-Company buys raw drugs — opium, poppy and coca — from Afghanistan and Cambodia. After processing them into heroin, brown sugar, charas and cocaine, these drugs are smuggled into India via Punjab border and Gujarat ports, and land here in Mumbai," said a senior officer from the Anti-Narcotics Cell of Mumbai Police.

After the drug consignment reaches Mumbai, it is handed over to the main dealer, sub-dealers and other local suppliers. The drug suppliers mainly hide in the ghettos of Mira Road, Nalasopara and Dockyard Road of Mumbai and extended suburbs.

"The college-going students mostly take ganja and charas. Heroin and cocaine, the refined drugs — are sold at a very high price. Only the well-heeled people can afford them. Most of the Bollywood film stars and strugglers take either heroin or cocaine," said the officer.

A highly-placed source in the Anti-Narcotics Cell said MDMA (also knows as Ecstasy) is in high demand for its said effects on sexual excitement. The MDMA is also used by Bollywood struggler girls. There is a myth that this drug can keep them slim and fit," the source explained.

Earlier the MDMA used to be made in Mumbai and Palghar area only. "However, following continuous high vigil and frequent raids, these makers shifted to Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Heroin is the highest quality and costliest drug that has been supplied by Cambodia and some South American countries," added the source.

RAID TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MUNDRA PORT HEROIN HAUL: CONG

Panaji/Mumbai: The Congress on Sunday alleged that the raid conducted by the NCB on a cruise ship in Mumbai was an attempt to deflect attention from the "real issue" of the drugs seizure at Mundra port in Gujarat. Last month, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had seized 2,988.21 kg heroin, likely worth `21,000 crore in the global market, from two containers at the Adani-operated Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district. "There is a news that a Bollywood actor's son has been arrested. Where did this drug come from? The NCB has come out and all of a sudden started saying that it has caught drugs from a cruise ship," Congress spokesperson Shama Mohamed told reporters.

Christian prayer house vandalised near Haridwar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Dehradun

A mob of around 500 people on Sunday allegedly attacked a Christian prayer house at Roorkee in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district. The assailants beat up worshippers and vandalised the prayer house, alleged the local residents who had gathered for the Sunday Mass.

The police are yet to make any arrests in the incident. Vivek Kumar, circle officer Roorkee, said: "The matter is being investigated and soon those involved will be apprehended".

The incident occurred around 10 am at Solanipuram Colony when the mob, which also included women, arrived at the prayer hall shouting and accusing Christian missionaries of carrying out religious conversion of Hindus. The mob allegedly shouted 'Jai shri Ram' and 'Vande Mataram'.

N Wilson, who is part of the prayer house said, "They manhandled and abused some of us, and hurled allegations about religious conversions. For over two decades we have been organising prayers, meetings and philanthropic activities at the prayer house."

NIA raids 9 locations over terror funding

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday raided nine locations in the border district of Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a case related to the alleged misuse of money generated from cross-LoC trade for funding militancy.

An NIA spokesman said the agency's sleuths with assistance from J&K Police, CRPF and ITBP personnel conducted searches at nine locations in Poonch district at the premises of some traders in relation to a case registered in 2016.

The officials conducted thorough searches during the raids and seized documents, digital devices and other "incriminating" materials. The case, according to the spokesman, is related to large-scale transfer of funds from Pakistan to India through the import of California Almonds and other items via the Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) at Salamabad, Baramulla district and Chakkan-Da-Bag, Poonch district.

"These funds were purportedly being used for fomenting militancy or separatism in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

The cross-LoC trade was started in 2008 as part of a confidence-building measure between India and Pakistan and the trade was based on a barter system. In 2019, India suspended cross-LoC trade at both the points after intelligence reports that it was allegedly being misused to smuggle weapons, narcotics and fake currency.

L-G Manoj Sinha meets health workers protesting against the termination of their contract, outside govt medical college in Jammu on Sunday | PTI

Assam Cong digs up CM's old remarks as MLA held for provocative statement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Guwahati

THE Congress in Assam on Sunday asked the police why no action was taken against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for his 'Jai Bangladesh' remark in the state assembly two years ago. "We won't give protection to anyone for any act that is against the law. But we cannot accept police inaction against BJP MPs and ministers taking the law into their hands," state Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah said.

"Let the organisations going after us also talk about the person who shouted the 'Jai Bangladesh' slogan in the assembly. Why was no action taken against the chief minister?" he asked.

The issue was raked up in the wake of the arrest of Congress MLA **Sherman Ali Ahmed** for his provocative statement on the killing of eight youth at Darrang during the Assam Agitation in 1983. The party served a show-cause notice to Ahmed and is likely to suspend him by night. Following his arrest, the MLA had demanded, "Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma should be arrested for making communal remarks".

In December 2019, Sarma had made the statement when some members of the Opposition were protesting the introduction of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Assembly. Later, an FIR was filed against him. Stating that the law has fixed accountability for the police, Borah asked, "Will the police function as dictated by the Ministers and the MLAs or the Police Act?"

VP inaugurates hospital infra

GUWAHATI: Cancer treatment in Assam, which reports around 52,000 new cases every year, is set to get augmented with the installation of a PET-MRI wing at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital in Guwahati. It was inaugurated by Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday. He was in Assam on a tour of northeast states. Set up at a cost of ` 62 crore, it is the first-of-its-kind PET-MRI wing in the northeast and fourth such facility installed at a government hospital in the country. The machine works faster than PET-CT and essential for advanced cancer research activities.

L-G to seek deferment of all-India med quota

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

AFTER facing opposition from medical students and political parties, J&K Lt-Governor Monoj Sinha on Sunday said he would request the Centre to defer the pooling of MBBS and post-graduate seats of the UT in All India Quota (AIQ) from the current session..

"Met NEET Post-Graduate MD/MS aspirants today. Listened to their concerns about UT's participation in all India quota in the current year. Students sought more time for preparation. Considering their petition, I'll request the central government to defer it for the current year," tweeted Sinha.

Medical students in J&K have been up in arms against the move to pool MBBS and PG seats of J&K in AIQ. "Please don't nip J&K medical students' prospects in the bud. This move will expose J&K students to a greater disadvantage as compared to our counterparts from other states and UTs," said a student leader from Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The students of GMC, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, GMC Rajouri and other medical colleges have protested the move.

Earlier, J&K used to reserve all medical seats for local students, opting out of the AIQ.

Train speed reduced to save wildlife

The Indian Railways has changed the timing and speed of at least 17 trains passing through areas with prolific movement of wildlife in the state. Rajendra Singh, PRO, Izzatnagar Railway Division, North Eastern Railway, said: "The decision has been taken keeping in mind the movement of wildlife. This decision will help safeguarding the wildlife." The move comes after the death of several elephants while crossing railway lines. In August this year, death of a female elephant and her six-month-old calf on a railway track in Lalkuan had again sparked the debate over railways running through forest areas.

VINEET UPADHYAY
Our correspondent in Dehradun
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DEHRADUN DIARY

State urges HC to allow more Char Dham pilgrims

The state government has filed an application in the Uttarakhand High Court requesting to allow more pilgrims at the Char Dham shrines — Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. Chandrashekhar Rawat, chief standing counsel of the state government, said: "The application has sought permission to increase the daily number of pilgrims. We are ensuring that all Covid-19 safety norms are followed." The hearing has been scheduled on October 4. The government has requested permission to increase the number of daily pilgrims at Kedarnath and Badrinath to 3,000, at Gangotri to 1,000 and at Yamunotri to 700 pilgrims. The application also stated that instead of the current arrangement of giving one minute darshan time to three pilgrims, the number can be increased up to five.

Pvt hospitals in hill districts to get subsidy

The state government will provide 40 per cent subsidy to enterprises, individuals opting to open private hospitals in the hill districts. Officials said the subsidy would be paid in advance after the project got approval. Dhan Singh Rawat, state health minister, said: "A meeting has been called to discuss the matter. Soon the details will be finalised. This will be proved a landmark decision in the state's health infrastructure development." The move is expected to give a boost to the medical infrastructure in remote hill areas of the Himalayan state.

Salt, essentials cost high in border villages

Imagine common salt, which normally costs `20 per kg, being sold for over `100 per kg. Well, it is a reality in some border villages of Pithoragarh district, where this essential item is being sold at prices as high as `130 per kg. Three village panchayats, which comprise 13 villages on the India-China border, are facing the issue. Gokarn Singh Pangti, gram pradhan of Milam said: "Prices of salt along with other items of daily usage such as sugar and soap have reached over eight times the normal price. This has become unbearable for many residents. We need help." The situation has arisen due to the tough terrain and scarce supplies due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

ONE
peacekeeper killed, 4 injured in Mali bomb attack

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	22	15	HR	Los Angeles	30	17	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	13	7	LR
Dhaka	30	26	TDS	Moscow	6	5	LR
Dubai	40	31	SNY	New York	25	18	SNY
Houston	38	25	SNY	Singapore	31	27	LC
Istanbul	30	20	SNY	Toronto	22	19	LC
London	20	10	LC	Washington	27	18	LC

Imran Khan's close allies among tax evaders: Report

Records show Czech Prime Minister secretly purchased lavish estate using offshore company; 35 current and former leaders exposed

WASHINGTON

MORE than a dozen heads of state and government, including the King of Jordan, the Czech prime minister, have amassed millions in secret offshore assets, according to an investigation published on Sunday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

The so-called "Pandora Papers" investigation—involving some 600 journalists from dozens of media including *The Washington Post* and *The Guardian*—is based on the leak of some 11.9 million documents from 14 financial services companies around the world.

Some 35 current and former leaders are featured in the documents which show Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis secretly bought a lavish French Riviera estate using offshore companies. As per records, the estate belongs to a subsidiary of one of the Czech companies owned by Babis. The revelation stands in contrast to his carefully cultivated image as a leader who clamps down on tax avoidance.

For Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, the leaked documents are sure to cause headache. Members of his inner circle, including cabinet ministers and their families, are said to secretly own companies and trusts that hold millions of dollars of illegal wealth. Among

Andrej Babis

Imran Khan

those exposed are Imran's finance minister Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin, son of his former advisor Waqar Masood Khan and Chaudhry Moonis Elahi, a close ally. Records show Elahi planned to keep proceeds from a corrupt business deal in a secret trust, thereby evading tax. Waqar Masood Khan's son owned a company in the British Virgin Islands.

The documents notably expose how King Abdullah II created a network of offshore companies and tax havens to amass a $100 million property empire from Malibu, California to Washington and London.

The BBC cited lawyers for King Abdullah saying all the properties were bought with personal wealth, and that it was common practice for high profile individuals to purchase properties via offshore companies for privacy and security reasons. In total, the ICIJ found links between almost 1,000 companies in offshore havens and 336 high-level politicians and public officials, including country leaders, cabinet ministers, ambassadors and others.

More than two-thirds of the companies were set up in the British Virgin Islands.

In most countries, the ICIJ stresses, it is not illegal to have assets offshore or to use shell companies to do business across national borders.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not directly named in the files, but he is linked via associates to secret assets in Monaco. The "Pandora Papers" are the latest in a series of mass ICIJ leaks of financial documents that started with LuxLeaks in 2014, and was followed by the Panama Papers, the Paradise Papers and FinCen.

The documents behind the latest investigation are drawn from financial services companies in countries including the British Virgin Islands, Panama, Belize, Cyprus, the UAE, Singapore and Switzerland.

SHOCKER

Investigation reveals 3,000 pedophiles in French Church

PARIS

ABOUT 3,000 paedophiles have operated inside the French Catholic Church since 1950, the head of an independent commission investigating the scandal told AFP days ahead of the release of its report.

The commission's research uncovered between 2,900 and 3,200 paedophile priests or other members of the church, said Jean-Marc Sauve, adding that it was "a minimum estimate".

The commission's report is due to be released on Tuesday after two and a half years of research based on church, court and police archives, as well as interviews with witnesses.

Sauve, senior French civil servant, said the report, which runs to 2,500 pages, had attempted to quantify both the number of offenders and the number of victims.

It also looked into "the mechanisms, notably institutional and cultural ones" within the Church which allowed paedophiles to remain, and will offer 45 proposals.

The independent commission was set up in 2018 by the Bishops' Conference of France (CEF) and the national congregations conference (CORREF) in response to a number of scandals that shook the Church in France and worldwide.

Its formation also came after Pope Francis passed a landmark measure obliging those who know about sex abuse in the Catholic Church to report it to their superiors. Made up of 22 legal professionals, doctors, historians, sociologists and theologians, its brief was to investigate allegations of child sex abuse by clerics dating back to the 1950s.

The report will be delivered to the CEF and the CORREF and released at a press conference Tuesday to which representatives of victims' associations are invited.

"It's not going to go easy on anyone," said Philippe Portier, a sociologist who was part of the commission. *AFP*

France's route to Sahel

France's jets regularly fly over Algerian territory to reach the Sahel region of western Africa, where its soldiers are helping to battle jihadist insurgents as part of its Barkhane operation.

A French official said the decision "does not affect our operations or intelligence"

The crimes of colonial France in Algeria are innumerable and fit the definitions of genocide

Algerian government statement

The sharp escalation in tensions also follows a French decision to slash the number of visas issued to Algerians because governments there are refusing to take back expelled migrants

ALGERIA BARS FRENCH FIGHTERS FROM ITS AIRSPACE
The Algerian government has banned French military planes from its airspace, the French army said on Sunday, amid a diplomatic crisis sparked by a visa row and reported critical comments from Emmanuel Macron

RISE IN TENSIONS

France said the decision had been made necessary by the former colonies' failure to do enough to allow illegal migrants in France to be returned

French officials have announced that the number of visas given to Algerians and Moroccans would be cut by half, and to people from Tunisians by 30%

Macron's comment

Certain comments made by Macron has also angered Algiers. According to French and Algerian media reports, Macron told descendants of figures in Algeria's war for independence that the country was ruled by a "political-military system" that had "totally re-written" its history

The comments amounted to 'inadmissible interference' in Algeria's affairs and were "an intolerable affront' to Algerians who died fighting French colonialism, the Algerian presidency said

The immediate recall of Algeria's ambassador from France for 'consultations' was announced Saturday evening in a statement from the Algerian presidency

Thousands march for abortion rights in US

WASHINGTON

WEARING pink hats and T-shirts and shouting 'Hands off my body', tens of thousands of women took to the streets across the United States on Saturday in protests aimed at countering a conservative drive to restrict access to abortions.

In Washington, about 10,000 protesters rallied in a square near the White House under sunny skies before marching to the US Supreme Court, which will have the final say on the contentious issue.

The protesters held signs that read 'Mind your uterus' and 'Make abortion legal', with several women—and men—dressed like late Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, America's iconic women's rights crusader, who died last year. The perennial fight over the procedure in America has become even more intense since a Texas law went into effect on September 1 banning almost all abortions, unleashing a fierce counterattack in the courts and Congress, but with few public demonstrations until now.

Two days before the Supreme Court is due to reconvene, the rallies took place in more than 600 cities, according to organisers, who said that hundreds of thousands of people gathered across all 50 states.

"Women are humans, we are full humans, and we need to be treated like full humans," said Laura Bushwitz, a 66-year-old retired Florida teacher protesting in Washington, wearing a dress with portraits of women activists and politicians.

"We should be able to have our own choice on what we want to do with our bodies. Period."

Michaellyn Martinez, a woman in her seventies with closely cropped hair, told AFP she got pregnant at the age of 19, several years before the landmark 1973 Roe vs Wade case, when the Supreme Court guaranteed the right to an abortion up until a fetus is viable outside the womb.

Martinez ended up having a daughter and getting married only to divorce two years later. "It changed my whole life—not having access to birth control and abortion," she said. At the Supreme Court, the marchers were met by counterprotests. A chain of riot police kept the two groups apart. In New York, activists gathered in Manhattan's Foley Square holding signs that read "We are not ovary-acting" and "I have a vagenda."

Juliette O'Shea, 17, organised about 30 teens from her Manhattan high school to attend the rally to "show solidarity" with Texas. *AFP*

Demonstrators rally to demand continued access to abortion during the March for Reproductive Justice in New York | AP

Bernard Tapie

Swashbuckling French tycoon Bernard Tapie dies aged 78

PARIS

BERNARD Tapie, the French business magnate, actor and politician whose swashbuckling career earned him millions of fans despite a litany of legal convictions, died aged 78 on Sunday after a four-year fight with stomach cancer.

"Dominique Tapie and his family have the immense sadness to announce the death of her husband and their father, Bernard Tapie, this Sunday," they said in a statement to La Provence newspaper in Marseille, in which Tapie was a majority stakeholder.

His death prompted condolences from politicians across the political spectrum, with President Emmanuel Macron hailing an "ambition, energy and enthusiasm that were a source of inspiration for generations of French people".

"This man, who had a combativeness that could move mountains and take down the moon, never gave up," his office said in a statement.

Dozens of admirers placed flowers outside Tapie's mansion in the posh Saint-Germain neighbourhood in Paris where he died.

"He's what you used to call a prole who succeeded in climbing the entire social ladder at a time when working your way up wasn't so easy," said Ludovic, a 23-year-old who regretted that "the media was beating up on him for 30 years".

Born in a rough corner of Paris on January 26, 1943, Tapie rose from modest beginnings to become one of France's most successful and high-profile businessmen, buying up and reviving dozens of failing companies and revelling in his wealth with American-style flair. *AFP*

Bid on Taliban spokesman's life, at least 5 civilians dead

A Taliban fighter stands guard at the entrance of a hospital where victims of explosion are undergoing treatment | AFP

KABUL

AT least five civilians were killed in a bomb blast at the entrance to a Kabul mosque Sunday, a Taliban official said, describing the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since US forces left at the end of August.

The bomb targeted the sprawling Eidgah Mosque in Kabul, where a memorial service was being held for the mother of Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid. He later tweeted the attack had claimed civilian lives. Three suspects have been arrested, Bilal Karimi, Taliban official spokesman said.

Taliban fighters were not harmed in the attack, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press. Those killed in the attack were civilians standing outside the mosque gate.

An Italian-funded emergency hospital in Kabul tweeted it had received four people wounded in the blast.

Following the blast the area around the mosque was cordoned off by the Taliban, who maintained a heavy security presence. Later in the afternoon the site was cleaned. The only signs of the blast was slight damage to the ornamental arch by the entrance gate.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. However, since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in mid-August, attacks by Islamic State group militants against them have increased. The rise has raised the possibility of a wider conflict between the two extremist groups.

IS maintains a strong presence in the eastern province of Nangarhar and considers the Taliban an enemy. IS has claimed several attacks against the Taliban, including several killings in the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

Sunday's attack is the first to target the capital since late August when an IS suicide bomber targeted American evacuation efforts outside Kabul's international airport.

The blast killed 169 Afghans and 13 US service members and was of the deadliest attacks in the country in years.

It was claimed by IS affiliated, the Islamic State in Khorasan Province.

Attacks in Kabul have so far been rare, but in recent weeks IS has shown signs it is expanding its footprint beyond the east and closer toward the capital.

On Friday, Taliban fighters raided an IS hideout just north of Kabul in Parwan province. The raid came after an Islamic State roadside bomb wounded four Taliban fighters in the area. *AP*

IS presence in Kabul growing

Attacks in Kabul have so far been rare, but in recent weeks Islamic State has shown signs it is expanding its footprint beyond the east and closer toward the capital. On Friday, Taliban fighters raided an Islamic State hideout just north of Kabul in Parwan province

US charges Canadian who was voice of Islamic State

WASHINGTON

A Canadian jihadist who fought for the Islamic State and narrated violent propaganda videos has been taken into custody by the US and charged, the Justice Department said.

Mohammed Khalifa, who was born in Saudi Arabia, was captured during a firefight in January 2019 by Kurdish-dominated Syrian forces allied with the United States.

The 38-year-old was handed over "recently" to US authorities and charged in Virginia with conspiring to provide material support to IS resulting in death. Khalifa left Canada in 2013 to join the IS group in Syria, and by the next year had become a key member of its propaganda team because of his fluent English and Arabic, according to the statement.

He allegedly served as a lead translator in IS propaganda production and as the English-speaking narrator on two violent recruitment videos. The cell was behind videos showing the beheadings of foreigners including the US journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, who died in 2014.

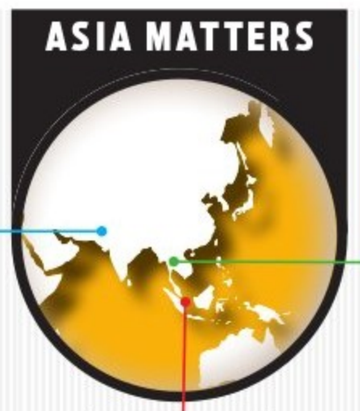
He faces a possible life sentence in the US. Canada additionally hopes to charge him, according to media there. The Canadian government said it was in contact with local authorities on the matter and that its federal police were aware "that he will be facing charges" in the US. In an exchange of emails cited in the charge sheet, Khalifa defended the IS killings he was associated with. "Mohammed Khalifa not only fought for ISIS in Syria, but he was also the voice behind the violence," said Acting US Attorney Raj Parekh. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Small jet crashes into building in Italy, 8 killed

Rome: A small private plane carrying six passengers and a crew of two crashed on Sunday into a vacant, two-story office building in a Milan suburb, and Italian news reports said all aboard perished. The LaPresse news agency initially quoted firefighters at the scene saying the pilot and all five passengers aboard were killed. However, later LaPresse and other media said there were eight people aboard the flight, including a boy. Rai state TV said the passengers were believed to be French. Fire officials couldn't immediately be reached to confirm the nationalities or the number of people who were aboard the ill-fated plane.

ASIA MATTERS



PAKISTAN

Police clueless about killer, says Sikh man's family

The family of Sardar Satnam Singh (Khalsa) has said that the police are still clueless about the assailants who managed to escape after killing the well-known Sikh 'hakeem' in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar. Satnam Singh, 45, who practised Unani medicine, was at his clinic on Thursday when some unidentified gunmen barged into his cabin and opened fire, killing him on the spot. The Islamic State's Afghanistan affiliate claimed responsibility for his killing. Manmohan Singh, brother of Satnam Singh, said that the police have not yet found any clue to the killing of his brother. "We have no enmity with anyone," he said.

SINGAPORE

City state staring at 5,000K cases per day

Singapore could see 5,000 daily Covid-19 cases next week, a top Minister has warned amid an ongoing coronavirus surge here that is rising much quicker than projected. Singapore on Friday reported 2,909 new cases, the highest number since the start of the pandemic. The daily number of Covid-19 cases in Singapore may rise to more than 5,000 next week, co-chair of Covid-19 task force said.

THAILAND

Phuket open to fully vaccinated visitors from all countries

Fully vaccinated travellers from any country can now book holidays to tourism haven Phuket, the Thai government has announced, under tweaks to a struggling quarantine-free travel scheme. The kingdom launched a "sandbox" scheme in July, which allowed fully vaccinated travellers from countries considered low-to-medium risk to roam free on the popular beach island for a fortnight, and then afterwards travel to the mainland without quarantine. Last week, authorities cut the required stay to a week, in line with national changes to quarantine rules." This means Thailand is now welcoming travellers from any country in the world.

Evolution of health insurance policies during the pandemic

While people are inquiring more about health policies, health insurance firms have also improved their offerings by adding more features and relaxing some rules

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Covid-19 pandemic has changed not only individuals' approach towards health insurance but also various health insurance policies.

The severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially the second wave, and post-Covid complications have made people realise the importance of having a health insurance cover, that too, a large enough coverage to fund hospitalisation and other medical costs.

And while people are inquiring more about health policies, health insurance companies have also improved their offerings by adding more features and relaxing some rules to make the claims easier.

Changing customer behaviour

The pandemic has forced people to shed their reluctance to buy health insurance policies. They are more aware about the benefits and features of health policies. People are also enquiring more about ways to increase their insurance coverage.

We have seen customers looking for innovative products offering coverages to cater specified diseases and higher sum insured, says Subrata Mondal, executive vice-president, underwriting, IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company.

Sanjay Datta, head of underwriting and claims, ICICI Lombard, says customers are now asking specifically about benefits and exclusions/ non-payables alike.

While people are now more aware about health insurance and their features, the way they buy insurance is also changing.

According to an Emkay Global Research report on the General Insurance Industry, Covid-19 has accelerated the adoption of digital technology in most aspects of the general insurance business. "This has also increased the focus of insurers on reaching customers using digital means," says the report.

With an accelerated adoption of digital mode of buying insurances, health insurers are also seeing a growth in offering innovative and cost-effective insurance solutions to customers.

MAJOR CHANGES IN HEALTH INSURANCE PRODUCTS

- Launch and standardisation of Covid-specific policies
- Recognition of make-shift hospitals for Covid claims
- Inclusion of home treatment under health policies
- Advent of short-term policies with tenure less than a year
- Coverage for tele-medicines and consumables

Changes in health policies

For health insurers, Covid-19 pandemic came as an opportunity to expand their customer base as well as product portfolio. With people enquiring more about health insurance, its features, etc., health insurance companies had to make the most of the opportunity and so they decided to change, both on their own account as well as due to the nudge from the regulators.

Whether it is the launch of Covid-specific products, short-term covers, home care covers, health insurers were quick to expand their product portfolio and product features to suit the customer needs.

Datta of ICICI Lombard says, they have been proactive in providing extremely relevant features at no extra costs to customers.

"Since last year, we have reduced the initial waiting period for Covid-related hospitalisations to 15 days (from earlier 30 days). We are also offering home treatment for all ailments where customers can avail treatment from the safe confines of their home, thereby, reducing the risk of exposure to Coronavirus," says Datta.

Mondal of IFFCo Tokio says that they have added some features like Introduction of cover for telemedicine, short-term policies, Covid-specific products keeping in view the pandemic situation.

IFFCO has also started the facility to pay premium in instalments, virtual signature/online consent of proposal forms.

Jitendra Singh, Vice president, Swastika Insurance Broking Services, says some health insurers have started covering Covid from day one in the existing health policy, consumables, home treatment, etc.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has played a proactive role in nudging and directing insurance companies to wake up to the challenges faced by people due to the pandemic.

It had taken numerous steps like recognition of make-shift hospitals for Covid claims, standardised Covid policies, inclusion of home treatment and coverage of telemedicines etc. The regulator has also allowed the launch of vector-borne disease products.

Increased compliances

While Covid-19 has forced many changes at policy and distribution level, do these changes come at a cost - increased compliance or premium? While insurance companies claim that there has been little or no additional compliance burden on policyholders post the Covid pandemic, insurance brokers and experts say insurers have been more vigilant while offering new policies.

"We do not ask for any additional information during renewal of any policy with us. However, during the first purchase of the health insurance policy, customers must declare all health conditions/ treatments taken/hospitalisations as detailed above," says Datta.

Mondal says in order to encourage and promote vaccination, they are going to offer additional discounts on health products to those who have taken both the doses, and hence they are enquiring about vaccination status.

However, he says, any member who has suffered from Covid-19 is being treated at par with other ailments. "Only the basic information which are enquired for any kind of medical history is being sought in such cases," he says.

Jitendra Singh of Swastika Insurance Broking Services says, to avoid misuse of new features and benefits added in their policies, insurance companies have set a basic minimum benchmark for compliance to ensure that the policy is not misused.

After the breakout of the Covid pandemic, health insurance products have changed for the better. However, prospective buyers and existing policyholders must be aware of all the features and benefits and their relevance to ensure they get maximum out of their policies.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NEO BANKING

RAJAS KELKAR

THE word 'fintech' is turning into a significant unifier. The way you manage your money changed dramatically over the past ten years and will change more. A new report released last week during a Global Fintech Fest gives a peek into the way you do banking would change.

Neo banking will be the way financial services will move forward, most experts highlighted. Neobanks are FinTechs that target individuals for financial services who are factory workers, freelancers, teenagers and students. Segments that are not reached out to by the traditional banking systems. Neo banks do not get an independent banking licence as banks. However, they are allowed to source business for existing banks.

It is interesting to note that the event had participants like governments and regulators like the Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India and Insurance Regulatory Authority of India. The Internet and Mobile Association of India or IAMAI, and the National Payments Corporation of India were the organisers.

Excitement was evident as most experts attending the event agreed that Neo Banking would turn out to be the Next Evolution Arc in Financial Services. Conversations among pundits in the technology, financial services, telecom services space are all converging.

Why this matters

Financial inclusion needs a lot of things to happen together. India's most significant advantage is that the government has created a solid base with India Stack, a technology-led ecosystem based on Aadhaar. Financial services like bank accounts, pension and provident fund accounts, mutual fund accounts and stock market trading accounts can all ride on the infrastructure.

These services have to reach remote parts of the country through the internet and mobile phone networks. G P Garg, an executive director at Sebi, said that the e-KYC or electronic Know Your Customer system has been a game-changer as it enables ease of doing business and investing.

Neo banks reach out to individuals who are otherwise not targeted by traditional banking or financial services institutions. If you are among the 25 crore people who belong to the 'blue collar' category like factory workers, neo banks would reach out to you to open savings accounts, offer 'sachet' or microloans, insurance and allow you to pay to make payments.

The report estimates that the number of 'gig economy workers or freelancers is 1.5 crore in India. When you are not working with a single organisation, you do not have a fixed salary every month. You are usually a contract-based worker with fixed benefits. There are no long-term benefits like provident fund and pension fund. You also do not benefit from a group insurance policy like those in the government or large private sector. You need to take care of your financial needs anyway. You need insurance, and you need banks to offer you loans at attractive terms. If you are a gig worker, banks do not give you offers that appeal to you. You pay the higher insurance premium or interest rates. If you do not have a loan repayment record, banks cannot give you a credit score or assess your potential to repay the loan.

Traditional banks do not have the bandwidth to provide loans to you if they see a higher risk profile. Neo banks can start small as they have a clean slate. These banks cannot presently give out loans on their own as they do not have the licence to lend. But they can offer payment services, cashback and other means to lure you into the formal financial system.

What you should be looking for

Neo banks are for you if you are looking to manage your finances better. It is all the more important to use them if you have a lumpy or irregular income. If you work independently as a professional, neo banks offer an excellent opportunity to establish your financial credentials. Your prudent borrowing or investing activity will give confidence to big banks to provide you with better terms. With many people working from home and more could start work from home, neo banks could just be the proper gateway for you to set a path of financial well-being.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

STARTING SMALL

Traditional banks do not have the bandwidth to provide loans to you if they see a higher risk profile. Neo banks can start small as they have a clean slate.

NEO BANKS TO ESTABLISH YOUR FINANCIAL CREDENTIALS

Neo banks are for you if you are looking to manage your finances better. It is all the more important to use them if you have a lumpy or irregular income. If you work independently as a professional, neo banks offer an excellent opportunity to establish your financial credentials. Your prudent borrowing/investing will give confidence to big banks to provide you with better terms. They could just be the gateway for you to set a path of financial well-being.

MONEY-WISE

MILESTONES AND STRATEGIES IN A BOOMING MARKET

HOW much numbers and milestones matter at the stock market becomes self-evident whenever the BSE Sensex touches a new milestone number. Some months ago, it was 50,000 points and now, it is 60,000 points. Such milestones which are 'celebrated' by the financial media, especially electronic media, invariably spark a debate on whether a huge correction or even a crash is around the corner.

If I look back at the journey of the BSE Sensex since the late 1980's, it stood at 510 points in January 1987 and then soared to a new high of 4285 points by January 1992 before dropping to 1991 points within a year in January 1993. The BSE Sensex then soared once again to 5887 points at the turn of the century in January 2000 before literally halving to 2924 points in January 2003. From a point where all seemed lost, we witnessed a huge secular bull run over the next five years that took the index to 20,873 points in January 2008.

The index once again slipped sharply to 8674 points within a year in January 2009 before making a fresh outbreak in late 2013 to end up at another new high of 28,233 points in January 2016. At the turn of the decade, earlier this year in January 2020, the BSE Sensex was once again riding a new high at 42,273 points before the Covid pandemic brought it down to its knees at 25,638 points in March 2020. In just 18 months thereafter, the same index recently touched the 60,000-points mark, reflecting a breathtaking 30,000 plus points uptick in the short span of 18 months.

Clearly, there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest that there is immense merit in staying invested over really long time frames. However, since investing is an art and not a science, there is no single 'correct' strategy that can be deployed at all given points in time and even more so, to approach a raging bull market and fears of a deep correction or crash.

A lot depends on the lifecycle stage of the investor and their near-term goals and objectives. While staying put may be the optimal strategy for those with a longer term horizon for their investment goals and objectives, the same may not be true for someone with nearer term investment goals and objectives. Such a person, and more so, if the goal set has been achieved or nearly achieved should actually be thinking of booking at least partial profits to divert the requisite money off the table.

Similarly, one must also have the discipline to shut out loud external 'noises', in this case those who are perpetual doomsday predictors as well as those with irrational exuberance talking of Sensex levels of 200,000 points at a time when we are just past the halfway to the 100,000-points mark.

So, for all the opinions one reads (including those of yours truly), one must remember and I re-iterate -- investing is an art and not a science. Hence, there is no single 'correct' strategy, at all given points in time.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
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TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹864

Target Price ₹975

UNITED SPIRITS

The impact of the second Covid wave on sales and profit now seems less severe than that in FY21 and outlook appears promising with in-home consumption, which benefits spirits more than beers, taking a precedence, while the on-trade channel is impacted; potential success in the P&A segment (24-25% EBITDA margin already demonstrated by Pernod Ricard in India) and the new CEO taking over earlier this month. We maintain our Buy rating.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*

Markets may remain under pressure this week

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE domestic equity market had a sharp fall last week after scaling new highs in the month of August and September.

The benchmark indexes -- BSE Sensex and Nifty50 -- lost more than 2% points each to end the week at 58,765.58 and 17,532.05, respectively. Investors/traders were in profit booking mood from the beginning and the news of China's energy crisis and economy slowing down, a sharp decline in the tech-heavy Nasdaq and growing inflation worries further added to the pressure as the week progressed.

Ajit Mishra, VP Research. Religare Broking, said that the coming week is going to be critical for financial markets as participants will be closely eyeing the MPC's monetary policy review meet and its outcome is scheduled on October 8.

Besides, the week also marks the beginning of the earnings season and IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), will announce its results on October 8. Before that, we have Nikkei Services PMI data scheduled on October 5.

"Markets may continue to trade under pressure citing weak global cues. Besides, the scheduled data and events on the domestic front would further add to the volatility in between. On the benchmark front, Nifty has immediate support at 17,450 and a decisive breakdown may result in a further decline towards the 17,300 zone. In case of a rebound, the 17,600-17,700 zone would act as a hurdle," said Mishra. He added that the prevailing buoyancy in the midcap and smallcap space may continue to offer opportunities, but it's prudent to maintain a cautious approach and prefer hedged positions.

Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investment said global cues and RBI policy will be important triggers.

"The market is showing some signs of correction after a stellar run as global markets are shaky amid worries of inflation and slowdown. Though the broader market outperformed last week, the IT sector, the leader of this bull run witnessed sharp profit booking. If the leader of the bull run starts to correct first then there is a risk of the near-term top in the market but we have to look for more clarity from here," said Meena.

In the last one week week, Nifty IT has given a return of negative 6% with TCS' and Infosys' stock falling by 4% and 5%, respectively. Eight of the 10 most valued companies witnessed a combined erosion of over ₹1.80 lakh crore in their market valuation last week, mainly dragged down by TCS and Infosys.

Meena said from TCS's Q2FY22 result, we may know whether it'll be another quarter of strong earnings for IT sector, but most of the projections are priced in and the market has started to worry about attrition rate and margin pressure due to wage hike. He added the movement of the dollar index, US bond yields will play an important role in the direction of global markets while crude oil prices will have a major impact on Indian markets.

EXPRESS READ

LIC to file draft IPO papers with Sebi next month

New Delhi: Country's largest insurer LIC is likely to file draft papers with Sebi by November for the largest IPO in country's history, a finance ministry official has said. "We target to bring the IPO within this fiscal and we have set strict timelines. The DRHP would be filed by November," the official told PTI. The government last month appointed 10 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd to manage the mega initial public offering of LIC.

RBI may again opt for status quo on key policy rate

New Delhi: Amid rising global commodity prices and the need to contain inflation at home, the Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo on interest rates for the eighth time in row in its upcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review later in the week, according to experts. The Reserve Bank had last cut repo rate by 40 basis points in May 2020 to 4% to spur demand in the Covid-hit economy. Since then, the RBI has refrained from taking any action on interest rates.

Bedia strikes winner as FC Goa bag Durand Cup

The 130th Durand Cup came to its climactic culmination on Sunday at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata with FC Goa being crowned champions for the first time. The Gaurs defeated Mohammedan SC by 1-0, owing to a set-piece goal scored by FC Goa captain, Eduardo Bedia, in the 105th minute in the extra time.

CHAHAL, CHAHAR...CHAHAL?

Leg-spinner continues his impressive run in the UAE leg as Royal Challengers Bangalore enter play-offs with win over Punjab Kings

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

IT WAS a surprise call, whichever way you looked at it. Yuzvendra Chahal seemed a certainty to make the T20 World Cup squad. However, the selection committee, which picked up a power-packed squad, threw a surprise when it came to the spinners. Keeping in mind the spinner-friendly conditions in the UAE, where the tournament will be played, they named five spinners in the 15-member squad. Yet, there was no Chahal. The lone leg-spinner slot went to Rahul Chahar.

The reason offered by Chetan Sharma, the chairman of the selectors, was simple. They needed a spinner, who could get the ball to spin quickly off the pitch, which Chahar is good at and one Chahal rarely does. The latter is not a conventional leg-spinner in many ways. For example, when he flights the ball, he prefers to bowl outside off and he will only resort to leg and middle-stump line only when he wants to send in a flat trajectory.

It must still be a tough pill to swallow for Chahal. There was a dip in form, most notably during the home-leg of the ongoing IPL. But he hasn't let it continue for long like his other spin-twin Kuldeep Yadav, who is totally off the radar. Instead of sulking, Chahal has responded like how seasoned professionals do. Let the ball do all the talking.

It has been a statement of the highest order. Chahal has picked up 10 wickets in his last five matches for Royal Challengers Bangalore, including a match-winning 3/29 against Punjab Kings on Sunday.

After beginning with two wicketless overs, it was Chahal who stepped up once the ball got soft. This is what experience brings. Seize the moment, when a window opens. He removed Nicholas Pooran, Mayank Agarwal and Sarfaraz Khan — the latter with a peach — to break the back of Punjab. The six-run win meant Bangalore became the third team to make it to the play-offs.

There has been a sort-of-a-trend for Bangalore in the UAE. They are yet to take a wicket in the powerplay, but it is during the middle overs, where they have taken control thanks through Chahal.

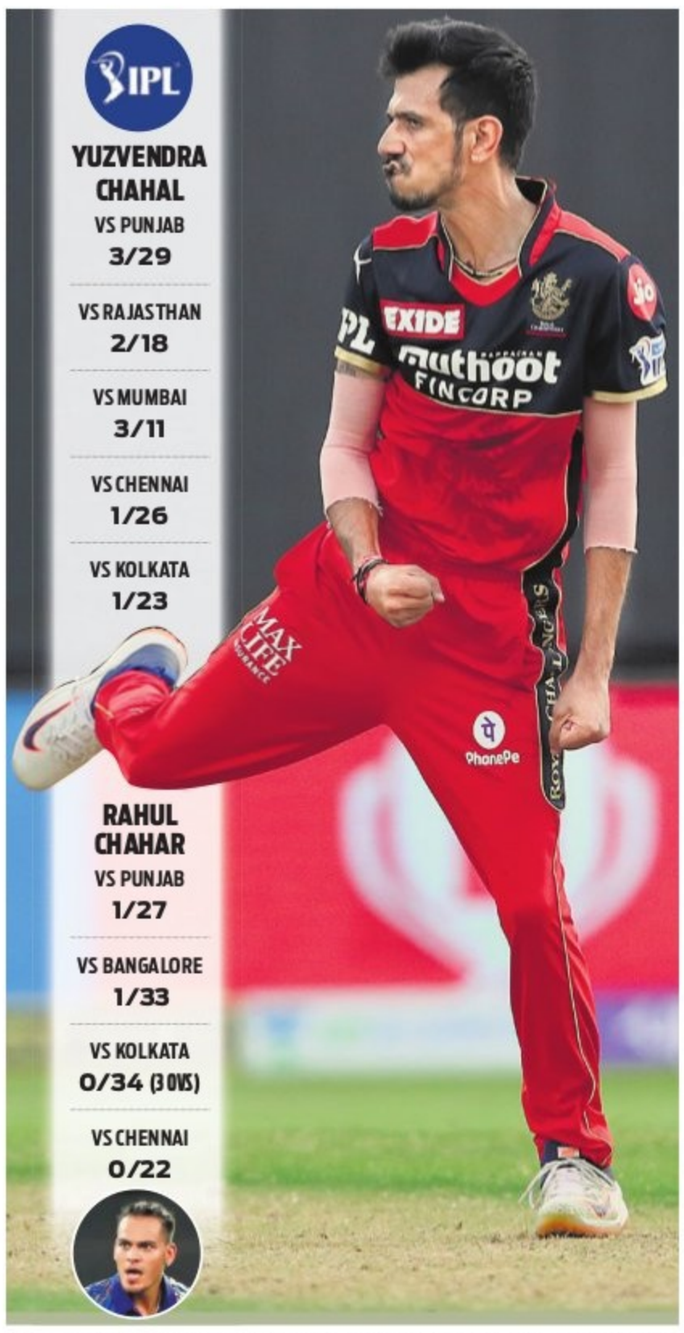
His control has been immaculate, doesn't give much freebies. Not only has he contained runs, the leg-spinner has taken wickets whenever the team has needed. Put it simple, whenever Kohli has needed wickets, Chahal has provided, something the Indian captain will be missing at the World Cup.

With every good performance from Chahal, he is asking valid questions. So did selectors rush in dropping him? At the moment, the answer is loaded in favour of Chahal as his replacement Chahar has only two wickets to show in the UAE leg so far.

He has not conceded more than 30 runs in any single innings in the UAE so far this edition, which just shows that the bowler is on top of his game. More importantly, the same cannot be said for Rahul Chahar, who got the nod ahead of Chahal in the World Cup squad. The Mumbai Indians spinner, comparatively, has scalped two wickets in his four matches in the league so far.

Whether the decision by the selectors is right or wrong, time will tell.

Brief scores: RCB 164/7 (Maxwell 57, Padikkal 40, Henriques 3/12, Shami 3/39) bt PBKS 158/6 (Agarwal 57, Rahul 39, Chahal 3/29).



Royal Challengers Bangalore's Yuzvendra Chahal celebrates the dismissal of Punjab Kings' Mayank Agarwal at Sharjah on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

Knights get closer to play-offs after sunset

VIVEK KRISHNAN @ Chennai

THE IPL cannot end soon enough for Sunrisers Hyderabad. They seem resigned to their fate of finishing at the bottom of the table, plagued as they are by an all too familiar weakness with the bat. It has been a facet of their game that has been susceptible even in seasons where they have been one of the in-form teams, relying on their bowlers to help them navigate their way through to the play-offs.

This season, the bowlers too have not quite been at their best and have therefore been unable to paper over the batting cracks that have always existed. Fresh evidence of their batting travails was offered against Kolkata Knight Riders in Dubai on Sunday as they stuttered and stumbled to an underwhelming total of 115/8 in 20 overs. A total Kolkata chased down in the final over without taking too many risks to inch closer to sealing the fourth play-off spot.

If they are to look for a silver lining amid all the doom and gloom, the fact that fresh auctions are lined up ahead of the next IPL season is perhaps the only solace. Barring Rashid Khan, whose match-winning ability makes him a prized possession, the management could be compelled to make wholesale changes to their playing group. In a sense, David Warner's struggles this season mirror the team's own downturn in fortunes. They have been so reliant on him for runs in previous seasons, but the Australian — who will turn 35 soon — seems to be nearing his end as a T20 batsman of renown.

While they obviously need to make reinforcements to their foreign contingent in the batting department, they also need to be smarter with their Indian picks. On Sunday, for instance, the batters tasked with assuming responsibility in the middle-order were Priyam Garg, Abhishek Sharma and Abdul Samand. All three of them are extremely talented and could form the backbone of an IPL side in a couple of years' time, but they have a combined experience of 58 IPL games, hardly ideal when you are competing against sides loaded with plenty of ammunition. What they need is a top Indian batter who can guide these youngsters.

Such an inexperienced middle-order hasn't been entirely the team management's doing of course. They would have hoped for the likes of Manish Pandey and Kedar Jadhav to play a big role for the franchise, but the two experienced pros have disappointed more often than not. Pandey, in particular, has been infuriating to watch at times, seemingly possessing all the strokes to be hot property in the shortest format but seldom delivering what we know he is capable of.

In the bowling, too, there are smaller gaps that need to be plugged, namely a new ball bowler who can complement Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Brief scores: SRH 115/8 in 20 ovs (Southee 2/26, Chakravarthy 2/26) lost to KKR 119/4 in 19.4 ovs (Gill 57, Rana 25).

Manu continues to shine as India go top in Junior World C'ships

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

After a underwhelming performance during the Tokyo Olympics, Manu Bhaker is back to winning ways yet again. After clinching individual gold (10m air pistol junior women) in the ongoing ISSF Junior World Championships on Thursday, the pistol shooter added two more gold medals (team events) on Saturday.

She first combined with Sarabjot Singh to win the top prize in the pistol mixed team event. Later, she repeated the feat in the air pistol women's team event alongside Rhythm Sangwan and Shikha Narwal.

The men's air pistol team comprising Naveen, Sarabjot and Shiva Narwal also clinched gold.

This is a big shot in the arm for youngster Manu, who had faced plenty of scrutiny after a subdued show during the Olympics. Her ability to quickly recover after the biggest disappointment of her young career could bode well in senior competitions in future. Earlier in the day, the junior men's 10m air rifle team — Dhanush Srikanth, Rajpreet Singh and Paarth Makhija — had also returned with a gold medal. They beat USA shooters in the final.

In the women's 10m air rifle event, Nisha Kanwar, Zeena Khitta and Atmika Gupta topped the first part of the qualification round and eased into the gold-medal match. However, they were outgunned by Hungarian trio of Eszter Mezaros, Eszter Denes and Lea Horvath.

Atmika had earlier teamed up with Rajpreet to win silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team event. After a fruitful day, India now sit on top of the standings with six gold, six silver and two bronze medals. USA sit second.

CLASH OF THE TOP TWO

Delhi Capitals and Chennai Super Kings are already through to the play-offs, but are still not assured of a top-two finish. Talking points ahead of Monday's fixture...

BATTING A CONCERN FOR DELHI

They have won three of the four matches in the UAE, but Delhi haven't looked as threatening as they were in the Indian leg. Much of their worry revolves around Prithvi Shaw, Rishabh Pant, Shimron Hetmyer as they have not been able to adjust to the slow conditions in the UAE. If they find form, Delhi will be hard to stop, especially how their bowlers have performed in the recent matches.

TIME FOR CHANGES AT CHENNAI?

Chennai prefer to back their first-choice XI to the T is a well-known aspect. But how long will they do with Suresh Raina is the question now. In MS Dhoni, they already have a batsman who doesn't perform like used to and Raina is no different. Should they believe enough is enough and want to give an opportunity to Robin Uthappa and K Gowtham, this is the time to experiment.

HEAD-TO-HEAD: MATCHES: 24, CHENNAI WIN : 15, DELHI WIN : 9, TIED: 1 | LIVE ON SS1 @ 7.30 PM

IPL TOPPERS

ORANGE CAP	PURPLE CAP
KL RAHUL	H PATEL
528 RUNS	26 WKTS
SIX-O-METER	FAIRPLAY
577	CSK

Updated till Sunday's KKR vs SRH match

For news, views and more, log on to newindianexpress/sports/IPL

POINTS TABLE

TEAM	M	W	L	P	NRR
CSK	12	9	3	18	0.829
DC	12	9	3	18	0.551
RCB	12	8	4	16	-0.157
KKR	13	6	7	12	0.294
PBKS	13	5	8	10	-0.241
RR	12	5	7	10	-0.337
MI	12	5	7	10	-0.453
SRH	12	2	10	4	-0.475

Updated till Sunday's KKR vs SRH match

KKR's Shivam Mavi celebrates one of his two wickets on Sunday | SPORTZPICS

FCBU READY FOR I-LEAGUE QUALIFIERS

ENS @ Bengaluru

FC BENGALURU United (FCBU) came up with an impressive display in the Durand Cup recently, reaching the semi-finals. It is a good feat considering the new faces in their squad ahead of the season. Now, they will be eager to carry that form into the I-League qualifiers, which starts from Monday at the Bangalore Football Stadium.

The Durand Cup has helped the team management understand the different team combinations. Some of the players, including Pedro Manzi has delivered. But head coach Richard Hood is aware that they will have to start from scratch once again. "Durand Cup was to figure out how to win games and our on-field combinations. It was also about reinforcing a lot of our beliefs, and about securing the right balance and confidence. But here we start again from scratch and we have plenty of goodthings to draw on," he said.

FCBU are placed in Group A alongside Rajasthan United FC, Ryntih SC and Madan Maharaj FC. Group B comprises five teams. There is a lot at stake with the winner making it to the I-League. After FCBU's good show in the Durand Cup, they are one of the favourites. Hood is clear about the team's goal as they want to feature in the I-League.

"We have to get through. We have to be in the I-League to get our club's story going. If we are in the I-League we get six more months and 20 more games. We at the club are all loyal to the project. We have to fulfill the commitment to be in the I-League," said Hood, whose team will start their campaign against Rajasthan United on Wednesday.

At the end of pink-ball Test, healthy signs for India

ENS /AGENCIES @ Gold Coast

ONCE rain affected proceedings for a major chunk of the first two days, the chances of any outcome other than a draw were always minuscule. While it was always going to be hard to force a result, India women can be pleased with the commendable display that they put up over the course of the four days against Australia in what was their maiden pink-ball Test. The drawn encounter means that both teams share two points each. Australia are leading 6-4 in points in the multi-format series ahead of the three T20Is that are remaining.

Australia resumed the fourth and final day on 143/3 with Ellyse Perry (68 not out) and Ashleigh Gardner (51) at the crease and the duo went on to share a partnership of 89 runs for the fourth wicket. The Indian pacers, though, fought back strongly, reducing Australia to 241/9 from a position of strength at 208/4.

What followed was an interesting declaration from Meg Lanning at the stroke of dinner.

India, who made 377 in their first innings after being asked to bat, played 35 overs in second innings before declaring after tea to set Australia an improbable 272-run target in just 32 overs. Shafali Verma made a fine 52 off 91 balls while Punam Raut remained unbeaten on 41 off 62 balls.

India and Australia teams at the end of the pink-ball Test in Gold Coast Sunday | CA

The target was virtually out of reach for Australia who lost Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney cheaply. Australia were 36/2 in 15 overs before players of both teams decided to shake hands and settle for a draw.

More than 80 overs were lost due to inclement weather over the first two days, making a draw the most likely outcome of the four-day match.

India could have declared at tea with a 242-run lead and 41 overs to bowl but they didn't want to leave anything to chance and took the safety-first approach.

India, who came into the game with only two practise sessions with the pink ball, outplayed the Australians in all departments. It was the first time in 15 years that the two teams were playing a Test.

It would be fair to say that the Indian fast bowlers got more out of the drop-in pitch than their Australian counterparts.

Debutant Meghna impressed with her swing bowing, 38-year-old Jhulan was relentless as usual and Pooja provided no respite to the batters either.

Brief scores: India 377/8 & 135/3 in 37 overs (Shafali Verma 52) drew with Australia 241/9 dec in 96.4 ovs (Ellyse Perry 68, Pooja Vastrakar 3/49) and 36/2 in 15 ovs.

EXPRESS READ

Dahiya misses bronze, others disappoint

OSLO: Wrestler Ravinder Dahiya was outwitted by Armenia's Arsen Harutyunyan in the bronze medal play-off after the Indian got himself into contention with a sensational come-from-behind 'victory by fall' in the 61kg repechage round of the World Championship, on Sunday. Other Indians in the fray could not go beyond the pre-quarterfinals.

Chhetri & Co begin campaign against Bangladesh

MALE: Title favourites India begin their SAFF Championships campaign against a plucky Bangladesh Monday, knowing fully well that they are just "a little bit superior" than their opponents despite the domination in this regional tournament. India have won the tournament seven times out of the 12 editions but by the admission of captain Sunil Chhetri, every match will be like a "war to fight".

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

City and Liverpool play out thrilling draw

AFP @ Liverpool

MANCHESTER City twice came from behind to prevent Liverpool moving back to the top of the Premier League in a pulsating 2-2 draw at Anfield on Sunday. Liverpool weathered a City storm in the first-half and hit the English champions with a sucker punch when Sadio Mane opened the scoring just before the hour mark.

Phil Foden levelled before Mohamed Salah looked to have won the game with a moment of individual brilliance as he jinked around four defenders before firing past Ederson.

Mohamed Salah (L) scores Liverpool's second goal against Man City on Sunday | AP

However, Kevin De Bruyne's shot that deflected in off Joel Matip nine minutes from time salvaged the point Pep Guardiola's men at least deserved. A share of the spoils leaves the title race tantalisingly poised with Liverpool a point behind leaders Chelsea and City two points off the top in third.

Guardiola's side won 4-1 when the sides met behind closed door last season, but City have still not won in front of a crowd at Anfield since 2003, long before an Abu Dhabi takeover transformed the club's fortunes. They should have ended that run by putting the game beyond doubt in a dominant first-half. They just lacked the finishing touch. Foden had the majority of the chances before the break, but could not find a way past Alisson Becker.

Bernardo Silva's mazy run beyond five players cut open the Liverpool defence, but Foden's low shot was repelled by the Brazilian international.

Results: Crystal Palace 2-2 Leicester, Tottenham 2-1 Aston Villa, West Ham 1-2 Brentford, Liverpool 2-2 Man City.

Barcelona, Real lose

MADRID: Luis Suarez piled more misery on Barcelona by scoring in a 2-0 victory for Atletico Madrid on Saturday but Ronald Koeman insists he has the club's support to continue as coach. On Sunday, Real Madrid slipped to a 2-1 defeat at Espanyol, after losing in the Champions League.

First PSG defeat for Leo

PARIS: Lionel Messi suffered his first defeat as a Paris Saint-Germain player on Sunday as their perfect start to the Ligue 1 season ended with a 2-0 loss at Rennes. The Argentina star smacked the crossbar with a free-kick in the first half at Roazhon Park before Gaetan Laborde volleyed Rennes ahead just before the break.

UNMATCHED GROWTH IN 4.5 YEARS

TRAILBLAZING 4.5 YEARS

Completion of 54 months of Trust, Development and Good Governance

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY

The UP government has ensured infrastructure upgradation and connectivity enhancement with single-minded dedication. The state today has one of the best infra and connectivity in the country, with special thrust on building expressways and airports.

- 5 international airports, including Jewar International airport, constructed/ underconstruction in last 4.5 years, as compared to only 2 airports built in previous 70 years
- 8 airports operational, 13 more airports and 7 airstrips being developed
- Construction work on the 341-km-long Purvanchal Expressway in final stage
- Work of 297-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway going on in full swing
- Land acquisition on the anvil for 594-km-long Ganga Expressway
- Land acquisition of Ballia Link Expressway in process
- Work underway on the 91-km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway
- From 2017 up till now, 15,246 km of new roads constructed, 14,471 km of roads widened and beautified, 3,49,274 km of roads made pothole-free, and 925 small and big flyovers and bridges constructed
- Work on in full swing to connect tehsil HQs and development block HQs through double-lane roads
- Work underway on 76 roads of 840 km length, connecting with neighbouring states and regions, at a cost of Rs 1,599 crore
- Metro Rail Pariyojana in Noida, Lucknow, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Agra, Meerut, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Jhansi

Employment & Livelihood opportunity

Ensuring total transparency in the state's recruitment process, UP is showing the way to the rest of the country in employment and livelihood generation.

- 4.50 lakh government jobs provided in 4.5 years
- Amount of Rs 2.16 lakh crore-plus provided to more than 82 lakh MSME units, livelihood opportunities generated for 2 crore people through this
- More than 25 lakh people provided employment through ODOP scheme
- More than 3 lakh employment opportunities generated through large industries
- 5 lakh youths provided employment through startups
- 1 crore women connected with 10 lakh SHGS
- Skill-mapping of more than 40 lakh migrant workers returning from other states and connecting them with employment opportunities
- 3.50 lakh people provided employment through contractual appointment
- Creation of more than 116 crore man days under MNREGA, work generated for 1.50 crore labourers
- 55,964 women appointed as banking correspondents called Banking Sakhi, training in final stage

- Establishment of UP's first Data Centre in Noida, employment for 50,000 youths to be created
- Launch of Udyam Saarthi app for facilitating self-employment under Mission Rozgaar
- Senior citizen pension, dependent women pension and disability pension to more than 83 lakh people

ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS

The implementation of 21 investment-friendly schemes in Uttar Pradesh has now taken the state to the 2nd position in 'Ease of Doing Business'. The government is projecting UP as an investment destination, with special focus on attracting foreign companies that are planning to shift their base from China to other countries in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Establishment of Film City in Noida with the objective of attracting investments and generating employment opportunities
- MOUs worth Rs 4.68 lakh crore signed during UP Investors' Summit, projects worth Rs 3 lakh crore already commenced
- Investment proposals from foreign companies worth Rs 56,000 crore received during the times of the Corona pandemic
- One District One Product (ODOP) programme to promote local products and market them competitively in national and international markets
- 152% rise in exports during the pandemic

FARMERS' WELFARE A PRIORITY

Primarily an agrarian economy, especially the Purvanchal area, UP has made sure to leverage its agricultural roots in best possible ways. Farmers' welfare under Kisan Kalyan Mission tops the priority list of the government, as happy farmers translate into happy citizenry and a happy state.

- Rs 1.44 lakh crore paid to sugarcane farmers in last 4.5 years, as compared to Rs 95,000 crore paid between 2012 and 2017
- Loans worth Rs 36,000 crore waived off for 86 lakh farmers
- Rs 37,521 crore deposited in the bank accounts of 2.53 crore farmers, under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
- Irrigation capacity increased by additional 3.77 lakh hectare
- MSP almost doubled; 435 lakh metric tonne of foodgrains brought from farmers at Rs 79,000 crore
- 2.05 crore farmers insured under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana, Rs 2,613 crore paid to farmers for damaged crops
- The benefits of Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana extended to account holders, joint account holders, earning members of the farmers' families, *pattedaar, bataaidaar*
- Crop loans worth Rs 4.25 lakh crore disbursed
- Modernisation and expansion of 20 sugar mills, including Ramala, Pipraich, Munderwa sugar mills
- 5.5 lakh cattle kept safe at Stray Cattle Shelters; Rs 900 support amount per cattle/ per month for anyone keeping them
- Baan Sagar Pariyojana, pending since past 46 years, completed now

COMMITTED TO WOMEN WELFARE

Uttar Pradesh government has been furthering the cause of women empowerment through a slew of initiatives. Besides being number one in implementing the Prime Minister's SVANidhi Yojana, the state has focused on recruitment of women candidates across departments and sectors, leading to more and more women becoming self-sufficient and self-reliant over the last four-and-a-half years.

- More than 1.50 lakh women got government jobs
- State-wide launch of Mission Shakti 3.0 campaign, to make women self-reliant and empowered
- Establishment of Mahila Helpdesks at all 1,535 police stations
- 40 lakh women benefited through Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana
- 1.67 crore gas connections distributed under Ujjwala Yojana, highest for any state
- Under Kanya Sumangla Yojana, 10.01 lakh girls benefitted from the scheme
- More than 1.52 lakh women married under Samuhik Vivah Yojana
- Kanya Vivah amount increased from Rs 35,000 to Rs 51,000
- Free bus travel for women on Raksha Bandhan
- Pension of Rs 500 per month to 29.68 lakh destitute women
- One crore women got employed through 10 lakh self-help groups
- 55,964 women selected as Banking Sakhi
- 58,758 women got employed as sanitation warriors in community toilets

ROBUST LAW & ORDER

The state is scripting new success stories in ensuring the rule of Law within its borders. The crime rate has reduced drastically, and the whip has been cracked on hardened criminals and chronic offenders.

- 1,43,000 policemen recruited under transparent recruitment drive
- Rs 1,866 crore worth illegal properties owned by mafias seized and demolished
- Zero-tolerance policy against crimes and criminals
- 150 criminals killed in encounters, 3,427 criminals injured
- Compared to 2016, reduction in dacoity cases by 70.01%, loot by 69.3%, murders by 29.1%, kidnappings by 35.3%, dowry deaths reduced by 11.6%, and rape cases dropped by 52%, over the last four-and-a-half years

- 214 new police stations established. Police Forensic University formed in Lucknow
- 44,759 accused arrested under Gangster Act
- 630 accused booked under National Security Act

WATER, ELECTRICITY & GAS CONNECTION

- 1.67 crore families provided free gas connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- 1.41 crore households provided free electricity connection
- Uninterrupted power supply to 1.21 lakh villages
- Power supply of 24 hours to district headquarters, 22 hours to tehsil headquarters, and 18-20 hours to rural areas

EASE OF LIVING

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, more than 42 lakh houses constructed. Under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana, more than 1.08 lakh houses constructed.

- 2.61 crore toilets constructed, 10 crore people benefitted, 58,758 community toilets and 4,500 pink toilets constructed
- Under 'Har Ghar Nal Yojna', 30,000 gram panchayats supplied clean drinking water
- Round-the-clock electricity supply in district headquarters, 22-hour electricity supply in tehsils and 20 hour electricity supply in rural areas ensured
- 90 lakh elderly, disabled, widow and destitute women to receive pension of Rs 500 every month
- Elderly Home Project started to take care of the elderly

- Free accommodation provided to Musahar and Vantangiya community along with people suffering from leprosy

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04.10.2021
MONDAY

Priyanka Upendra to play teacher in next

PG 4

DAY'S DIARY

WikiLeaks launched

WikiLeaks is a multi-national media organisation and associated library. It was founded by publisher Julian Assange on this day in 2006

PUBLISHING DETAILS

The website is known for publishing anonymous submissions and leaks of government, corporate or religious documents. It is operated by an organisation called Sunshine Press

THE FOUNDER

To his fans, Assange is a valiant campaigner for truth. To his critics, he is a publicity-seeker who has endangered lives by putting sensitive information into the public domain

RELEASING DATA

WikiLeaks has released some 4,00,000 secret US files on the Iraq war. It was the website's second major dissemination of classified US military documents after releasing details on the Afghan war

A scene from the play | KEERTHY THONDAGERE

PROJECT OF PASSION

92-year-old Padma Shri awardee MS Sathyu worked around age-related issues to bring out his latest play, *Vaarasudaaraa*, which reflects the current political climate

MS Sathyu | SHRIRAM BN

SANATH PRASAD

EVEN at the age of 92, Padma Shri awardee and veteran playwright MS Sathyu's zeal to mirror the fate of the contemporary political climate in India, is unmatched. Despite several age-related challenges, his recent directorial, *Vaarasudaaraa*, which was staged at Ranga Shankara on October 2, was a project of passion that Sathyu worked on during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

The result is an act centred around power, betrayal and religious fundamentalism, narrated in Sathyu's trademark style with a conventional-yet-hard-hitting story. "I know my days are numbered, but I am not worried. The show must go on," says the veteran artiste, who got a standing ovation for the work of art. Behind the scenes, Sathyu attended rehearsals location at ADA Rangamandira every day at 6pm sharp in February '21. He was well ahead of time, arriving much before the artistes showed up for practice. Then, the lockdown due to the second wave of the pandemic kicked in, and at the same time, Sathyu suffered a hip fracture. At that point, videos of the rehearsals were sent to him. And despite his health challenge, Sathyu would pick out even minute mistakes, corrections in body movements, props and costumes.

Presented by popular theatre group Samudaya Bengaluru, *Vaarasudaaraa* is a play cautioning the public against the 'polarising times we live in'. The story is set in the 17th century during the Mughal rule where Shah Jahan's sons Daaraa, Shuja, Aurangzeb and Muraad battle it out to inherit the Mughal Empire. It also exemplifies how communalism triumphs over brotherhood following the victory of Aurangazeb, who was known for his barbaric leadership. "The play is a depiction of the current times we live in. History is just repeating itself. Politics is only getting communal. I am someone who has always tried to display the socio-political apathy that surrounds us," says Sathyu, who began his directorial journey as an assistant director with producer Chetan Anand for a play *Anjali* in 1956. "That is the first time I got an opportunity to say lights, camera, action," adds Sathyu, whose other popular works include *Gul E Bakavali*, *Dara Shikoh*, *Rashmon*, *Kuri* among others.

Sathyu has always been vocal about social issues since his student days when he was active in the 'left movement' and was highly inspired by the Marxist Communist ideology.

"The activist in me has been alive since my school days. I was also part of the left movement when I worked in Mumbai and Delhi, after I left Bengaluru in 1950. The stories of the down-trodden always move me. Hence, my films focused on social issues," says Sathyu, who is also a photographer and art director.

Freedom of expression seems to have come under attack in recent times. However, Sathyu, who has lived through several defining historical moments, feels that restrictions are an old trick— something that's tried and tested. "I respond to such attacks through my plays. *Kuri*, a Kannada play, actually irked a section of society because of the state anthem that was infused in the play. The next time around, I asked the cast to replace it with the national anthem as a response to the attack we faced. We were shocked to see that nobody in the crowd stood up, including the group that started an agitation movement against us," recalls Sathyu, who has also directed films like *Garam Hava*, *Chithegu Chinthe* and *Bara*.

With the changing dynamics in producing a play or film, Sathyu prefers sticking to the analog method of direction.

"I still do photoshoots in the traditional way, using negatives. I don't like the digital format. OTT platforms might be picking up, but watching theatre plays live is always unmatched," says Sathyu, adding, "It is important to keep theatre alive even during tough times."

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday.

The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹2,000 from India Sweet House**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Kerala, 2. Kodagu, 3. Chikmagalur, Kodagu, Hassan

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Gopal Sarkhel
2. Prathap V P
3. Haridas P

*Conditions apply

'Pop' goes the idli

The South Indian staple, which got a makeover by a Mumbai homechef, has divided the internet. So how did Bengaluru find itself in the middle of the storm?

ANILA KURIAN

FOOD is a topic that either unites or divides people. This time, it's the humble South Indian breakfast item, idli, that has divided the internet. Say hello to popsicle idli, the latest food item that's been making waves on social media. It has sparked a serious debate online with some praising the creativity, while others are thrashing the creation, calling it an abomination of a dish that's been around for generations.

Created by Mumbai-based home cook Minal Badheka, Bengaluru somehow seems to have taken credit for it. Speaking to *CE*, Badheka says, "I've never made the traditional idli for my son. I'm a baker who takes baking classes for a living. So, I have several moulds at home. I use everything from regular cake moulds to Mickey Mouse moulds to make idli for my son, who is in Class 10 now. So it was just a natural thought process of mine to use a popsicle mould to make this shape of idli too."

While she shared her creation on her social media page, it somehow turned out that Bengaluru restaurant Colombo Idli House in HSR Layout got the credit for it. Owner Pandiaraj Paulpandian clarifies, "This viral creation is definitely not ours! We do have idli on a stick but we use kulfi moulds to make it. It's been on our menu for the past two years since we opened the restaurant." Since the photograph went viral, the restaurant has been receiving several calls about it and Paulpandian has had to clarify each time.

So what is it about the popsicle idli that people can't seem to accept? Food blogger Naveen Suresh opines, "It's ridiculous. There are food items that work well as a fusion and idli already has a version of it. A classic example of that is rava idli. Then it slowly had its version of millets, coloured ones and so on. But the whole point of eating idli is to break it with your hands, dip it in the chutney and sambar and relish it. Now, it's just become like a modern South Indian dish, which we don't really need. Frankly, I don't even feel like eating it," he says.

Agrees food critic Priya Bala. "I don't mind modernising food as long as it has a purpose. In the case of popsicle idli, what purpose does the stick serve? It just feels like an unnecessary appendage."

Style aside, Pradeep Suryanarayana, owner of popular food joint Veena Stores, says, "Perhaps this will bring more awareness to people that idli is a healthy food and youngsters might find it interesting enough to give it a try."

As a baker, I have several moulds at home. I use everything from regular cake to customised moulds to make idli for my son

Minal Badheka, home chef

GOING VIRAL

Business tycoon **Anand Mahindra** took to Twitter to talk about the popsicle idli: "Bengaluru, India's innovation capital can't stop its creativity from manifesting itself in the most unexpected areas. Idli on a stick-sambhar & chutney as dips. Those in favour, those against?? (sic)" Soon, Indian politician Shashi Tharoor followed by saying: "Absurd but practical!"

CITY READ

College hosts lecture series on sustainable development

The Oxford College of Science, in association with the Indian Science Congress Association, conducted a lecture series on science and technology for sustainable development with women empowerment to promote thinking on these issues among its students and faculty. The general president of the association, Prof Vijay Laxmi Saxena, attended as the chief guest. The lecture series was also attended by prominent members of the association, including Prof KS Rangappa, Dr R Kavyashree, Prof Geetha Bali, Prof Ashok Kumar Saxena, Prof S Ramakrishna and Prof Gangadhar.

Hospital launches campaign to help children in need of heart surgery on World Heart Day

In order to promote a healthy heart lifestyle, raise awareness on the incidence of heart disease and help younger children suffering from heart problems, Aster RV Hospital launched its 'Heart to Heart' campaign in association with its global CSR arm, Aster Volunteers, recently. Cardiologist Dr BG Baliga, along with the cardiac care team of Aster RV Hospital, were present at the event.
In order to mark the occasion of World Heart Day, the hospital also launched its hypertension clinic. "India stands ahead of western countries in terms of its heart disease burden, with India being the hypertension capital of the world. Intensive efforts are required to make people more aware of their heart health at an early age and take steps to maintain their heart health early," said Dr Baliga.

By The Way

Feeling blue

Actor **Milana Nagaraj** posted a picture of herself sporting a pretty blue gown adorned with pink flowers. Captioned "hazy" with a blue heart, the actor is seen beaming at the camera. Don't miss the post on social media.

Brotherly love

Actor **Darshan Thoogudeepa** took to Instagram to wish fellow actor **Abishek Ambareesh** on his birthday. Referring to Ambareesh as his brother, the actor posted a picture of the both of them with Abishek embracing him from behind, while wishing him the best. How touching!

SIX-YARD WONDER

Visitors thronged Karnataka Chiktrakala Parishath over the weekend to check out the Vastrabharana Saree Exhibition. The exhibition, which ends today, showcased a colourful selection of handwoven sarees, jewellery and handicrafts made by 50 craftsmen coming from all over India. | SHRIRAM B N

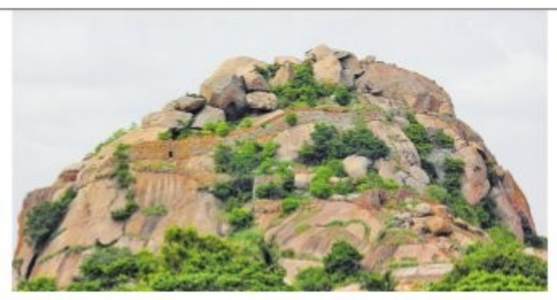
WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

SPEED READING

Iris Reading will be conducting an online speed reading class this week where you can brush up on your reading and comprehension skills, and pick up a few new skills. The course is open to anyone interested, from students to professionals.
When: Oct 5
Details: eventbrite.com

LOL CLUB

The first-ever Kannada stand-up team in Karnataka, *Lolbagh*, will be hosting a special stand-up show called 'Forever RCB'. Join Pavan Venugopal, Karthik Pattar and Hampa Kumar Angadi as they perform live at the Koramangala Club. **When:** Oct 9
Details: insider.in



SUNRISE TREK

Bangalore Mountaineering Club will be hosting a trek to Uttari Betta. The five-kilometre trek will go through the Uttari Better fort and to the temple of Shankareswar as well as a small jungle cave. **When:** Oct 9 **Details:** eventbrite.com

DOODLE AWAY

Have an artistic child and want to encourage them? Hobby Station will be hosting a doodle workshop for kids. Doodling For Kids might be the place to be.
When: Oct 5
Details: bookmyshow.com

VISIT THE LOCAL FLEA MARKET AT JW MARRIOTT THIS SATURDAY AND FIND PLENTY OF INTERESTING ITEMS TO PURCHASE WHEN: OCT 9 DETAILS: INSIDER.IN

A RENAISSANCE MAN

A discussion on the memoir, *Growing Up Karanth*, will be held at BIC. Authored by Kota Ullas Karanth, Malavika Kapur and Kshama Rau, the discussion will be moderated by Shoba Narayan and have Chiranjiv Singh, Sugata Srinivasaraju and Vivek Shanbhag in attendance.
When: Oct 8 **Where:** Bangalore International Centre

ONE BAND ARMY

Gladson Peter, India's first One Man Band, will be performing online this weekend. Listen to some tunes and support a good cause as the singer and eVidyaloka Trust raise funds for children in rural areas to access education.
When: Oct 8 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

COFFEE CLUB

ARAKU Coffee will host a four-hour long coffee workshop today. Accredited by the Special Coffee Association, it will introduce you to key concepts of speciality coffee.
When: Oct 4
Details: insider.in

COVERING EZRA

Jim Beam Originals will be doing a series of virtual music concerts this month. Raghav Meattle will be performing the first in the coming weekend, doing his own take on George Ezra's work.
When: Oct 9 **Details:** insider.in

NO RESTRICTIONS

Speaking Souls will be hosting a Bengaluru open mic this coming Sunday. Come tell stories, crack a few jokes, recite poetry or sing your heart out, there are no restrictions.
When: Oct 10
Where: Just be Resto Cafe

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com

BUTTERMILK UPMA

INGREDIENTS

- **Rava:** 1 cup ■ **Oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Slightly sour buttermilk:** 3 cups
- **Green chillies:** 3-4, finely chopped
- **Ginger:** 1 tsp, grated ■ **Salt:** 1.5 tsp
- **Curry leaves:** 2 sprigs
- **Mustard seeds:** 1/2 tsp
- **Onion:** 1 large, finely chopped
- **Tomato:** 1 medium, finely chopped
- **Mixed vegetables peas, carrots, mung sprouts etc.:** 1/2 cup

METHOD

- Roast rava on medium flame for 8 minutes until aromatic. Soak this in a bowl of buttermilk and salt.
- Heat oil in a large pan. Add mustard, chillies, ginger, curry leaves, and saute for 1 minute.
- Add onions, veggies and saute on high flame for 3-4 minutes. Lower the flame, cover and cook for 5 minutes. Add sambar powder and soaked rava.
- Stir well to combine. Cover and cook this for 7-8 minutes until rava is cooked well and all the moisture is absorbed.
- Open the pan and fluff up the upma. Serve hot.

— Nandita Iyer, Bengaluru

SOUND BOARD

FINSHOTS DAILY

A daily 5-min podcast explaining the most important finance and business happenings in plain English. India focused.
- On Amazon Music

CITY OF WOMEN

Explore the calculated strategies, backdoor negotiations and often absurd lengths women go to have fun and feel free in their city.
- On Spotify

EVEN THE RICH

Our lives can be crazy, but you can take a break from it all with Wondery's new series, Even the Rich, where co-hosts Brooke Siffrinn and Aricia Skidmore-Williams pull back the curtain and chat about someone else's craziness for a change.
- On Apple Podcasts

RARE LIVES

This podcast focuses on the status of rare conditions in India, which has been talked about very little. It is a one-of-its-kind attempt in India to document the gamut of challenges and achievements of people with rare conditions and opens a constructive dialogue on what can be done.
- On Google Podcasts

BAD BOSS KARMA

Are you stuck with a horrible boss? Is your boss mean and unkind to you? How often do you quit jobs because of your boss? Tune into the episode, 'Bad Boss Karma', Chetna is slicing through the drama around the bad boss.
- On Google Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

JAYASIMHA

Jayasimha, a forest officer, gets transferred to a new village and endeavours to stop animal poaching. However, he lands in trouble and further endangers his family.
- Cast: Vishnuvardhan, Vajramuni, Mahalakshmi, Umashree

FAN

Drushya, a television actor, falls in love with Shayari, one of his fans who helps his crew find an ideal shooting location. However, her parents disapprove of their relationship.
- Cast: Adhvithi Shetty, Aryan Gowda, Mandya Ramesh, Naveen D Padil

PUTNANJA

Putnanja, a poor farmer, falls in love with Roja, a city-bred woman. They get married despite opposition from her mother, but differences soon crop up between them.
- Cast: V Ravichandran, Meena, Lokesh, Umashree

BRINDAVANA

Madhu and Bhoomi are the cousins of two stepbrothers, who are arch enemies of each other. When Madhu falls for Krishna, he takes up the responsibility to end her brothers' rivalry.
- Cast: Karthika Nair, Milana Nagaraj, Sai Kumar, Sampath Raj

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 3 WAYS COMMUNITY CREATED A HEALTHY LIFE BY OLIVIA AFFUSO

Maintaining a healthy weight takes more than diet and exercise, says physical activity epidemiologist Olivia Affuso. In this actionable talk, she shows how you can kickstart a healthy life by tapping into the collective power of a community that supports and motivates your health goals.

2 THE BLACK HISTORY OF TWERKING BY LIZZO

Superstar Lizzo traces booty shaking to a traditional West African dance and tells how Black women across generations kept the rhythm alive, from blues and jazz singers to modern rap and hip-hop performers. She shares how twerking empowered her to love her own body — and explains why understanding its origins helps protect Black culture from erasure and misappropriation.

3 WHY THE PASSPORT NEEDS AN UPGRADE BY KAROLI HINDRIKS

Looking to Estonia's technology-driven government for inspiration, entrepreneur Karoli Hindriks envisions a world where immigration is no longer hindered by bureaucracy and needless repetition. Travel to a future beyond borders where universal digital passports replace paper ones and where outdated systems stop wasting our time and money.

4 HOW EMPLOYERS STEAL FROM WORKERS — AND GET AWAY WITH IT BY REBECCA GALEMBA

When you work, you expect to be paid for it. Except, for millions of Americans employed across a range of industries like restaurants and construction, that's not always the case. Anthropologist Rebecca Galemba explores the multibillion-dollar problem of wage theft.

5 THREE RULES FOR BETTER WORK-LIFE BALANCE BY ASHLEY WHILLANS

According to behavioural scientist and Harvard Business School professor Ashley Whillans, "always-on" work culture is not only ruining our personal well-being — but our work, as well. She shares which bad habits are stopping us from getting what we need out of our free time and three practical steps for setting boundaries that stick.

FIT BIT

URDHVA ANJANEYASANA

(UPWARD CRESCENT MOON POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'urdhva' means elevated, Anjaneya is the name of Lord Hanuman, Anjana is the mother of Lord Hanuman and 'asana' means pose. It is a very simple and more effective stretching exercise in the world of yoga. This asana is performed in standing back bending position. It is also a preparatory pose for Parivritta Parsvakonasana. It helps open, stimulate the Mula Bandha (Root Lock) and Uddiyana Bandha (Abdominal lock). Both Bandhas increase the stability of the body in this asana. It also activates and balances the Ajna (Third Eye), Manipura (Solar Plexus), and Sahasrara (Crown) Chakras.

STEPS

- Start this asana by coming into Tadasana (Mountain Pose).
- Put your left foot back, and raise the left heel. Make sure both feet are facing forward.
- Raise your hands to your chest with palms pressed together like Anjali Mudra.
- With deep inhalation, lift your hands with interlaced fingers and point your index fingers towards the ceiling.
- Visualise lengthening your spine upwards along with your tailbone stretching down toward the floor.
- Your shoulders should be relaxed down and your upper arms should be slightly down to make space between your ears and arms.
- Bring your shoulder blades in towards your back to help prevent the shoulders from moving towards the neck.
- Slowly try to arch your back to form a shape of crescent through your upper body along with the left leg. Do not do a deep back bend. Now, tilt the head back slightly without pressing the neck, and look towards the roof.
- Hold this position for around 40 to 60 seconds.
- To come out of this pose, keep your spine straight and bring both your hands down to your sides. Repeat the same steps with your other leg.

BENEFITS

- Improves digestion and stretches the sides of the body.
- This pose is more beneficial when you have back pain.
- It also helps in strengthening the lower back muscles and the sides of the body.
- Regular practice of this asana can relieve sciatica, fatigue, osteoporosis, and constipation.

LIMITATIONS

- People who have recent or chronic injury to the hip, back or shoulders, should not practise this asana.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

PRIYURAALU (Telugu)

The story follows a young girl who is a victim of an extramarital relationship, and unknowingly gets involved with a married man. The film traces her journey in finding solutions to her problems.

Cast: Kamakshi Bhaskarala, Prithvi Medavaram, Kalapala Mounika
- Watch on: SonyLiv

KASADA TABARA (Tamil)

The lives of a few individuals get impacted, both in good and bad ways, by the actions of others who are hardly connected to them.

Cast: Sundeep Kishan, Harish Kalyan, Shanthnu Bhagyaraj, Regina Cassandra, Priya Bhavani Shankar
- Watch on: SonyLiv

KAANEKKAANE (Malayalam)

Dpt. Tahsildar Paul Mathai arrives in town for some court matters. He is welcomed by his son-in-law Allen. But when Paul is leaving Allen's home, something catches his eye. There comes a shift in their lives.

Cast: Suraj Venjaramoodu, Tovino Thomas, Aishwarya Lekshmi
- Watch on: SonyLiv

SALAAM BOMBAY (Hindi)

Back from an errand for a seedy circus owner, urchin Krishna finds the troupe has packed up and disappeared, leaving him with barely enough money for a 3rd class ticket to Bombay. From here on, Krishna becomes a chaipau, constantly on the run.

Cast: Shafiq Syed, Hansa Vithal, Chanda Sharma, Anita Kanwar
- Watch on: Mubi

AAKASHAVANI (Telugu)

Once upon a time, somewhere in a deep forest, lived a tribe, ruled by a power-obsessed Zamindar, disconnected from the world with their own beliefs and sentiments. The villagers get brainwashed into believing never to cross their village border. One day, a radio finds its place as their new talking god.

Cast: Samuthirakani, Vinay Varma, Teja Kakumanu
- Watch on: SonyLiv

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

SHIDDAT (Hindi)

The film has two parallel love stories, and focuses on how believing with all your heart achieves love.

Cast: Sunny Kaushal, Radhika Madan, Mohit Raina, Diana Penty
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

NADUVAN (Tamil)

This story revolves around Karthik, a businessman who faces betrayal in love.

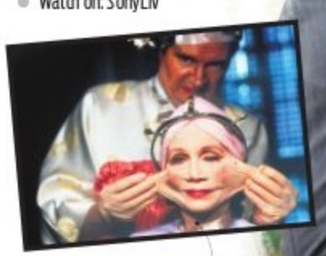
Cast: Gokul Anand, Bharath Srinivasan, Aparna Vinod
- Watch on: SonyLiv

FOREIGN

THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS (English)

Tom, a war veteran, and his wife are a childless couple who find a baby lost at sea and adopt her. However, when the child's biological mother enters their lives, their happy family falls apart.

Cast: Alicia Vikander, Michael Fassbender, Rachel Weisz, Jack Thompson
- Watch on: SonyLiv



BRAZIL (English)

In a dystopian future where technology reigns supreme and love is forbidden, a daydreaming clerk becomes the victim of his own romantic illusions.

Cast: Jonathan Pryce, Robert De Niro, Katherine Helmond, Ian Holm
- Watch on: Mubi

DADDY AMIN (Arabic)

The good-natured clerk Amin lives with his wife and children in modest circumstances. After getting duped into a shady investment, the family is thrown into chaos and father Amin dies. In the wake of his death, he begins to observe the aftermath of his actions on his family from the afterlife.

Cast: Hussein Riad, Faten Hamama, Kamal Al-Shennawi, Marie Munib
- Watch on: Mubi

THE WIND WILL CARRY US (Persian)

Irreverent city engineer Behzad comes to a rural Kurdish village in Iran to keep vigil for a dying relative. While death hovers around the corner, Behzad gains perspectives on life and spirituality as he befriends the locals and experiences nature's majesty, changing his own attitudes as a result.

Cast: Bahzad Dorani, Noghre Asadi
- Watch on: Mubi

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar:	₹ 399 per month
Sony Liv:	₹ 299 per month
Prime Video:	₹ 129 per month
Mubi:	₹ 499 per month

Actor Sara Ali Khan's pink saree with 54 truck motifs, designed by city-based boutique Madhurya Creation, was a head-turner at The Global Citizen Concert Mumbai chapter

SAREE STORIES

MONIKA MONALISA

FUN, quirky, bold... These are some of the descriptions for actor **Sara Ali Khan**'s outfit, a pink saree with 54 truck motifs, that she flaunted at The Global Citizen Concert Mumbai chapter, which was held recently. Created by Madhurya Creations, a Bengaluru-based boutique, the actor was at the 24-hour-long music festival, along with other actors like Ananya Panday, Janhvi Kapoor, Dia Mirza and Arjun Kapoor.

What makes the saree much talked about are the 54 truck motifs scattered all over it. Some of the motifs that one can easily spot are a peacock and an autorickshaw. Along with slogans like 'Thand rakh' or 'Keep calm and do aram', the saree is a vibrant piece. "Sara is quite popular among the youth and her wardrobe has always been young and experimental which her fans have always loved. She has been someone who has always carried both western and traditional outfits with the same kind of ease," says Bharathy Harish, co-ordinator for Madhurya Creations. Considering her willingness to experiment, the boutique decided to create something that brings the best of both worlds.

Made of crepe silk, the saree's anchal has 'Mere paas maa hai' printed on it, the famous line from the movie *Deewar*, starring Amitabh Bachchan and Shashi Kapoor, that released in 1975. "The saree has graffiti that is mostly found on Indian trucks; this particular dialogue is one of the more popular sentences that could be found," she says, adding that they wanted to use motifs that were found on Indian trucks.

Talking about other fun facts about the saree, Harish mentions the piece involved about 440 hours of hand embroidery. "There is bead and zardosi work throughout the body," she says. Keeping with the desi-ness of the saree, they used bright colours with Hindi text.

The saree was customised with Sara Ali Khan in mind, keeping it fun and vibrant in terms of the colours and motifs that she represents

—Ami Patel, celebrity stylist

Khan, styled by Ami Patel – the go-to stylist for Bollywood A-listers like Priyanka Chopra, Alia Bhatt, Madhuri Dixit– teamed the saree up with a pink satin sleeveless blouse with latkans attached to the tie-detail at the back. With minimal make-up, she completed the look with a blue bindhi and traditional silver jhumkas. "The saree was customised with Sara in mind, keeping it fun and vibrant in terms of the colours and motifs that she represents," says Patel, adding, "And having seen her relationship with her mother as really special, we thought of going with the slogan 'Mere paas maa hai'."

But why a saree? Patel says, "Sarees symbolise old-school charm and all these things have a certain strength to them which are very underrated."

CITY READ

City activist receives award

Charita Konkal, an activist for sexual minorities, has been awarded the Golden Women's Achiever's Award. Presented by Chitthara and Carlton Media, the award honoured her role in fighting against atrocities on sexual minorities, providing food and medicines for the victims of flood in north Karnataka and Kerala, and providing food kits for the poor during the lockdown.

Festive season sale goes live

Reliance Digital launched a sale for the festive season. The sale will be live at all their retail stores, including online stores. The sale includes offers on TVs, refrigerators, gadgets and home appliances. The 'Festival of Electronics' sale will also have various financing and EMI options, in addition to fast deliveries.

TIMELESS CREATIONS

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

ARE you re-imagining a new world and romancing with time? Watches are not only for timekeeping, they are a remembrance of moments shared, memories created, and words in salutation of the sentiment involved in a situation.

Watches are a remembrance not just of time, but of moments, people, messages and slogans. Present-day watches speak elegance coupled with a quirky and kitsch pop. The design theory of watches today pushes boundaries with styles that are traditional yet edgy. Today's watch design has a philosophy behind it, because art is not art if it doesn't have a message. The youth of today defy age-old boundaries of geography and culture, believing in a global culture.

Hence, designs around nature or other strong messages of peace and harmony are making an appearance in the market. Finally what you wear is what you are. Times are changing and it reflects in the innovative watchmaking of today, conveying a cry to inspire making time for what matters – peace, love and harmony.

Timex has launched a limited edition collection of three watches that portray the timeless message of unity as they celebrate Coca-Cola's time-honoured 1971 'Hilltop' commercial. A commercial that reflects solidarity and was a rallying cry for tolerance half a century ago.

"In the same way you offer to buy someone a Coke, the act of asking for the time is a meaningful gesture – a way of bridging differences, striking up good conversations, and finding community," says Shari Fabiani, senior vice president of brand marketing and creative services for the Timex Group. "We are dedicated to bringing quality timekeeping to all and have always believed in making time for the community. We're thrilled to team up with Coca-Cola in their original message of solidarity and continuing to inspire the world to sing together in perfect harmony."

The evolution in design theory and craftsmanship of watches represent the experimental, fierce, culturally-rooted-yet-modern, fun and spirited fashion culture that is moving forward with an ethos. The timepieces in today's progressive and inclusive world are a cheerful reminder to embrace opportunities for connection and move through the world with compassion. Fashion tells us the story of a society. It gives us a peek into culture, building and evoking an enduring spirit. True fashion is always a movement, and watches and clocks today display that along with time.

Though one can't travel through time with a time machine, watches are a similar experience with slogans, messages and motifs from across the world, almost metaphorically making one dive into the past. All while living a wholesome present and looking forward to a hopeful future that accepts diversity, and appreciates and encourages truth, love and hope for global togetherness and happiness. Fashion, art, literature and food are these bridges that hold hope for a global culture and vision coupled with good times.

PIC: ABHISHEK VERMA

A poster remembering the famous commerical of Coca-Cola and Timex unity

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

For the wannabe detectives

Layton's Mystery Journey: Katrielle and the Millionaire's Conspiracy has something for everyone. If you can solve the puzzles and move on to the next level, consider yourself clever

THE Nintendo Direct is Nintendo's triannual announcement to its fans about its latest games and software updates. The Direct last week revealed an interesting cast list for an upcoming movie on Mario. But this article does not speculate on an unreleased movie. What are my comments on the latest trailer for the Zelda game? This article does not review trailers of unreleased games either. That would fall under the category of "speculation" as well.

This week, I take a feather from the hat of the famed Katrielle Layton, from Layton Mystery Detective Agency, to review a game with all the facts in front of me. I played "Layton's Mystery Journey: Katrielle and the Millionaire's Conspiracy". The Layton series is a Nintendo exclusive, recently made accessible through the magic of Apple Arcade. It follows the story of a clever detective and her mission to seek out the truth, grounded in deductions made through solving puzzles.

The Layton series is a game for all ages. It has cute animations for the kids, dialogues rich in human emotions for non-kids, and puzzles that rattle everyone equally. The game is a point-and-click, interactive mystery novel for the detectively-inclined. It's an unambiguous pick if you like the puzzle section in newspapers. The people in the game's universe are obsessed with puzzles: math, logic, lateral thinking, and mazes. Solving puzzles unlocks clues and propels the story forward. The brain but laughs with all the tickling. This latest game is set in fictional London, with the young Katrielle solving numerous small mysteries as part of her detective agency. In addition to over 500 in-game puzzles, the game also has several smaller side objectives.

The origin of the series dates to 2007, introducing an animated Sherlock look-alike named "Professor Layton". The overarching story is always outlandish and has us anticipating a complicated story rooted in science fiction. The end of the game reveals something less tangled, giving us the closure that I have come to associate with the ending of an episode of Scooby-doo.

The only problem with the game, is that it has hardly evolved in its format since 2007. There are some elements that just work — like the beautifully rendered cutscenes, and the painted backdrops in the game's map. But the dialogues are unskippable, puzzles are automatically triggered, and there are the occasional annoying trick puzzles. It's not a very nice feeling to use up all hints and still not figure the answer. Overall, a 26/30 rating for a game that makes me feel very clever.

Global tales, local dreams

ROSHNE BALASUBRAMANIAN

Q&A

It was the challenge parents faced, including me, as we planned holidays for our children. I saw my friends printing notes from websites, putting together travel dockets, and searching for resources that would get their kids interested in their holiday destinations. But this wasn't really an optimal approach, and the aspiration to create a travel resource for children led to the *Cities of Adventure* series," shares author **Rishi Piparaiya**, discussing his latest book series. *The Secret of the Snallygaster*, *The Race to Phar Lap's Saddle*, *Framed in Hollywood*, and *The Men from B.A.G.E.L* — the first four titles in the series takes readers on whirlwind escapades, introducing them to global cities, including Washington, Melbourne, Los Angeles and New York. "My kids were 12 and 10 at the time, and spending time with them gave me several ideas. Also, writing for children had been on my mind for a while; a consistent feedback I got while attending a creative writing course at the University of Cambridge was to look at writing children's books. Finally, I love travelling, and this project allowed me to travel the world with a definite purpose. All of this came together to give birth to this series," says the globetrotter.

Excerpts:

Writing a travel story amid a pandemic must have been challenging.

On the positive side, I finished my world trip a few months before the pandemic started. I had travelled for five months across 55 global cities and therefore, I did not lack material or inspiration. It is a good feeling to be able to wake up and escape, through your writing, to wherever in the world you would like to be, even though everything around you is in a complete lockdown. I did not have a specific writing ritual per se.

Do you think the aesthetics of characters in children's books have changed in the past decade?

I have not kept up as much with children's literature as I did as a child. Reading itself as a habit is slowly dying, and the concern is how we can protect that. But books tend to mirror society, so characters in books now are more mature and emotionally sensitive than they were a few decades ago.

***The Race to Phar Lap's Saddle* also draws focus on the need for 'slow living'. Does this school of thought come from your personal experiences?**

It is human nature to dwell on the past or worry about the future when it is the present that is most important and in our control. Every *Cities of Adventure*, in addition to being a window to the global city that it's based in, also has an underlying moral that I would like children to reflect upon. The message in *The Race to Phar Lap's Saddle* is for families to live in the present and enjoy the time they have together. My personal experiences have certainly shaped this. I left a high-profile financial services career to focus on my passions. Because I realised that the corporate rat race never ends — one can keep accumulating success, wealth and honours, but that comes at the cost of time. Which, in my view is the most valuable asset we have.

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Priyanka Upendra

PRIYANKA UPENDRA TO PLAY A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TEACHER IN *MISS NANDINI*

The film will have the actor associating with director Gurudatta S R

A SHARADHAA

PRIYANKA Upendra, who has been testing waters with a variety of roles, will play a Government school teacher in her next outing, *Miss Nandini*. This film will have the *Devaki* heroine associating with director Gurudatta S R, who is awaiting the release of his debut film, *Psychopath*.

Expressing excitement about this film, Priyanka is glad she is part of yet another interesting subject, and will have her associate with children in a subject that has elements of comedy, and comes with a good message. "Why can't a government school be as good as a private school. *Miss Nandini*, a government school teacher aims to bring in that standard, " explains Priyanka, who also revealed that there was a small phase in her life where she wished to be a teacher. "In college too, I had the opportunity to teach at kindergarten. This film will allow that wish to come true albeit on the silver screen," she adds.

The actor, who is looking forward to the release of *1980*, has completed shooting for *Ugravatara* and *Life is Beautiful*. Priyanka who has also taken up a project in Bengali will begin shooting for *Miss Nandini* from October 16 before which the makers plan to have a photoshoot and a muhurath on Oct 8 and Oct 10, respectively. Apart from a host of children in the cast, *Miss Nandini* also stars Gopal Deshpande, Appanna, K P Sridhar, and Bank Janardhan. Bankrolled by the RK banner, *MIss Nandini* has Sai Sarvesh scoring music and Veeresh as the cinematographer.

Gurudatta

Why can't a government school be as good as a private school. Miss Nandini, a government school teacher aims to bring in that standard

- Priyanka Upendra, actor

Rachita Ram

RACHITA RAM'S LOOK FOR *SHABARI- SEARCHING FOR RAVANA* REVEALED

The actor, who is part of the revenge-thriller, will be sporting short hair for most parts of the film

CE FEATURES

Rachita Ram, for the first time, will sport a short crop hairstyle for her upcoming film, *Shabari – Searching for Ravana*. This was announced by the makers on Sunday to mark the actor's birthday.

According to debutant director, Naveen Shetty, *Shabari* will be a revenge thriller that features Rachita Ram in two shades. Eighty per cent of the film will have the actor carrying this short look, which is a transformation from the regular character. *Shabari*... will have Rachita Ram sharing screen space with Raghu Mukherjee, Pratap Narayan, and Archana Kottige.

With cinematography by Vishal Kumar Gowda, and music by Anoop Seelin, *Shabari* went on floors in August, and a long schedule in Mysuru was recently completed. The team plan to resume shooting for the rest of the portions post Dasara.

Rachita Ram, who has a handful of films in hand, is looking forward to the release of *100*, and also has *Veeram, Love You Rachchu* at different stages of production.

RRR RELEASE DATE ANNOUNCED

CE FEATURES

The much-awaited release date of SS Rajamouli's upcoming historical actioner, *RRR*, has been announced. The film will be hitting screens worldwide on January 7, 2022.

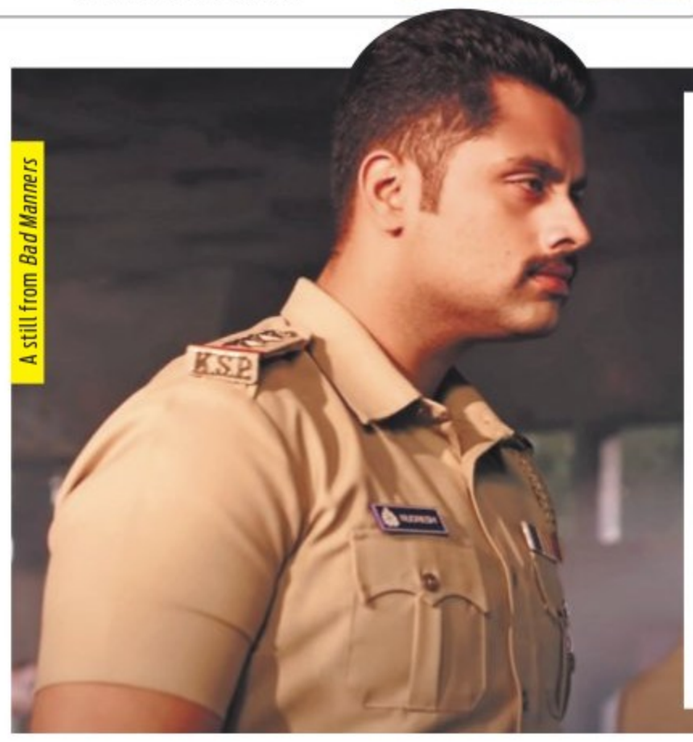
A new poster featuring Jr NTR, Ram Charan, Alia Bhat, and Ajay Devgn has also been released. Earlier, the makers had announced October 13 as the release date but had to postpone it due to the pandemic situation.

Ever since its launch in 2019, *RRR* has remained one of the most anticipated Indian films. Set in the pre-independence era of the 1920s, the film has Jr NTR and Ram Charan playing freedom fighters Komarum Bheem and Alluri Sitarama Raju, respectively.

Produced by DVV Danayya at an estimated budget of Rs 450 crore, the film also features Olivia Morris, Samuthirakani, and Shriya Saran in supporting roles.

The film's music and cinematography are by Rajamouli's frequent collaborators, MM Keeravani and KK Senthil Kumar.

RRR will release in Hindi, Telugu, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.



A still from *Bad Manners*

ABISHEK AMBAREESH IN A COP AVATAR FOR *BAD MANNERS*

CE FEATURES

On the occasion of Abishek Ambareesh's birthday, the makers of his next, *Bad Manners*, released a sneak peek that featured him in the role of a cop.

The first look garnered much attention on social media. With music by Charan Raj, and cinematography by Shekar S, *Bad Manners* marks Abishek's first collaboration with Suri. This role is billed to be quite the challenge for the one-film actor.

After completing a schedule earlier this year, the team recently completed another schedule, and will resume the remainder of the shooting from Oct 5.

Written by director Suri along with Amri and dialogue writer Maasti, *Bad Manners* also marks the debut of Priyanka Kumar and features Rachita Ram in the lead cast.

A still from *RRR*

Allu Arjun's *Pushpa The Rise:* Part 1 to hit theatres on Dec 17

CE FEATURES

Allu Arjun's much-awaited pan-Indian film *Pushpa's* first part, *Pushpa The Rise: Part 1*, will release on December 17

The film's official Twitter handle posted the news. Set in the backdrop of Seshachalam forest, *Pushpa* tells the story of the red sander smugglers and their nexus to illegally transport the forest produce.

Directed by Sukumar, the film features Rashmika Mandanna as the leading lady, with Fahadh Faasil, Dhananjay and Sunil playing the antagonists.

Pushpa: The Rise is produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar of Mythri Movie Makers. The film has music by Devi Sri Prasad and cinematography by Mirosław Kuba Brozek.

Allu Arjun

Elnaaz Norouzi joins Glenn Close in *Tehran* season 2

CE FEATURES

Sacred Games actor Elnaaz Norouzi will join Glenn Close in the second season of Tehran on Apple TV+.

Tehran (2020—) is a spy thriller series about a Mossad agent who goes undercover in the Iranian capital. The Emmy-nominated series stars Niv Sultan in the lead role.

Elnaaz, who was born in Tehran, is presently shooting for the series in Athens, Greece.

Speaking about the show, the actor shared, "It is a pinch-me moment for me. I am proud to be associated with an Apple TV+ and Emmy-nominated series. More than that, it is an honour to be part of a project with Glenn Close." Elnaaz also reunites with her *Sacred Games* co-star Nawazuddin Siddiqui in Sangeen. The upcoming Hindi-language thriller is directed by Jaideep Chopra.

Elnaaz Norouzi